

BL unions told tens of thousands will be laid off

Tens of thousands of BL workers will be laid off in the coming weeks because of poor sales in the past two months, the company's managing director Mr Ray Horrocks told unions last night. He said the company thought that the ballot on pay would produce an indecisive result today but in any case BL could not increase the offer.

Slump in car sales blamed for crisis

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL Cars, last night told the unions that tens of thousands of workers will be laid off during the coming weeks because of the company's poor sales in the past two months.

In a letter to Mr Grenville Hawley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the leader of the union side on the BL Cars Joint Negotiating Committee, Mr Horrocks said the trading situation of the company had worsened in the past two months, culminating in the fall of its market share to an all-time low of 15 per cent in January.

Stocks more than adequate

The Buy British campaign was having an encouraging effect; but stocks were more than adequate, and the company could not afford to continue building merely for stock. As a result, lay-offs were the only way of adjusting the position.

He also pointed out that the company had taken soundings at plant level and thought that the pay ballot result, which would be announced today was likely to be indecisive. However, if the unions got a 70 per cent vote in favour of rejection of the company's 5 per cent pay offer, BL would consider that they had a mandate for strike action.

But he said again that whatever the result of the ballot BL did not have the resources to increase the offer.

Pessimism among BL executives

There is growing pessimism among BL executives that the ballot will go against them. The unions insist that that will not lead to inevitable strike action but will strengthen the hand of their negotiators who are due to meet the management for a further round of negotiations on Friday.

A strike by 70 gearbox assemblers at BL Cardiff has stopped production of Rover saloons at Solihull and TR7 sports cars at Coventry.

In the affair of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed Com-

Women join Ulster jail dirty protest

From Christopher Thomas

Woman prisoners in Armagh jail have begun a dirty protest by throwing excreta into an exercise yard, in the past few days.

The protest began after a search on Thursday uncovered paramilitary clothing, including black berets, dark glasses and black skirts and pullovers. Violence erupted when the women were removed from cells as the search progressed.

The Northern Ireland Office said that some of the prisoners were bruised but that there were no serious injuries. An inquiry into how the clothing came to be in the prison has begun.

Police killed

Two police officers were killed in a terrorist landmine blast yesterday on the road from Roslea to Lisnaskea, co Fermanagh. They were in a Land-Rover following a police car when a remote-controlled bomb was detonated.

West Germans sharpen support for United States on Olympic boycott

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 11

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has written to President Brezhnev and President Carter.

Behind the letter is Bonn's deep concern to preserve as much as possible of the achievements of its detente policy which in the past 10 years has transformed relations with East Germany and Eastern Europe.

US boycott request

The American Olympic Committee today formally asked the full session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its Lake Placid meeting to move the 1980 summer games from Moscow. The request was presented by Robert Kane, the American organization's president, at the start of a two-day IOC debate on the fate of the Moscow Olympics.—Reuter.

British accused of collusion with South Africans in election plot to deny power to Zanu (PF)

Mr Mugabe threatens to restart guerrilla war in Rhodesia

From Dan van der Vat
Salisbury, Feb 11

The British interim administrator of Southern Rhodesia and the Zanu (PF) party of Mr Robert Mugabe, appeared tonight to be on a collision course which could wreck the elections due at the end of this month.

There were strong hints from British sources of further applications soon of the special powers against intimidation assumed last week by the Governor, Lord Soames. They were first used yesterday against Mr Enos Nkala, the Zanu (PF) treasurer, who was barred from all further campaigning for using inflammatory rhetoric, although he remains a candidate.

Mr Mugabe, unscathed by yesterday's bomb attempt on his life at Fort Victoria, said this evening that, if Lord Soames used his powers to ban Zanu (PF) from participating in the election in any one area, "for us that is the end".

Lord Soames has arranged to see Mr Mugabe and the Governor would express his personal concern over the latest assassination attempt and would then raise the contents of the Fort Victoria speech which preceded it. The main burden of the speech was a threat to withdraw Mr Mugabe's guerrillas from the assembly areas if his party was prevented from taking part in the elections.

Lord Soames, it is understood, will not decide tomorrow to ban Zanu (PF), but he may well feel the time has come to deliver the strongest warning yet to Mr Mugabe about intimidation of electors.

Mr Mugabe accused the British of working in collusion with the South Africans and the white Rhodesians in an attempt to destroy his party and its chances of winning the election. He accused the Rhodesian Security Forces of being behind yesterday's assassination attempt.

But Zanu (PF) would carry on for the time being with its present business of fighting the election campaign. He claimed that, despite the official an-

nouncement of their withdrawal, South African troops were still stationing near the Beit Bridge border crossing between Rhodesia and South Africa.

Meanwhile, the violence continues. It was disclosed today that a Zanu (PF) branch chairman and his wife were killed and another woman seriously injured when a grenade was thrown into their home in the south-east of the country.

Over the past three days, four grenades were thrown into a beerhall in Gwelo, injuring 38 people, nine of them seriously and there have been many reports of intimidation, ranging from threats to beatings, abductions and murder.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front, remains the calmest of the leading contenders for office. Today he attended the weekend arrest of Mr Garfield Todd, the former Prime Minister, saying that it "shows the stupidity of the people who did it".

The Security Forces were trying to "take an old score", while the PF was trying to persuade people towards reconciliation.

Bishop Muzorewa said tonight that his supporters were being heavily intimidated, and he accused the British of bias in favour of Zanu (PF) and the PF.

Dutch complaints

Mr Joep de Boer, foreign affairs spokesman of the ruling Christian Democrats, said in Amsterdam that the British in Rhodesia appeared to be lending legitimacy to the actions of Bishop Muzorewa's auxiliaries in their supervision of campaigning.

Mr de Boer, who arrived back from Rhodesia on Saturday, said: "I am not accusing the British Governor, Lord Soames, or the British Government of partiality, but the practical effect of their policies is partial to Bishop Muzorewa at the expense of the Patriotic Front parties".

Leading article, page 13

The climate will be as before—official

By John Grosser

Fluctuations in political and economic barometers notwithstanding, there will not be any changes in the climate in the next few decades. That is the official.

It is, in fact, the considered verdict of an interdepartmental group of civil servants under the chairmanship of Sir Kenneth Berrill, head of the Central Policy Review Staff ("think tank").

The report, published yesterday by the Cabinet Office, explains that the Interdepartmental Group on Climatology was set up because the Government was aware of the possibility of large climatic change and "with considerable interest about the consequences for this country". The report appears to say, governments do care about the things that matter.

The premise of the report is that "climate" and "weather" should be distinguished.

Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a given time. Climate is a description of the weather (often expressed in statistical terms) over a period long enough for short-lived extreme conditions not to influence the general picture unduly.

The study group was concerned that the speculations of some climatologists that the weather might get colder within the next three decades had received considerable publicity.

"The extremes of weather... over the last two decades have helped give them credibility with the public," the report says.

The scientists consulted by the group, however, "see no reason to conclude from the historical record that especially large changes are likely". The Government has accepted the report's conclusions.

The delegates, many of whom put their views forcibly to Mr Newall, were unhappy about the 12.2 per cent increase in basic rates on offer, and the 6 per cent which was meant to cover their claim for comparability with gas employees.

They were claiming about £10 a week for parity, which is equivalent to 16 per cent.

Negotiations were not helped when the British Gas Corporation offered increases of between 15 and 18 per cent, which the union's negotiators have recommended for acceptance.

The comparability payment was due to run from this month, while the delegates wanted it to run from December 4, 1979.

They are also indignant because the one-hour reduction in the working week, also on offer, will run from December 7, 1980, and thus fall into next year's negotiations.

The employers' £25.7m offer would increase the basic rate for a 40-hour week to £65 and push up weekly average earnings by more than £17 to nearly £108. There was also provision for extra holidays.

A meeting between the GMWU and officers of other unions in the industry, the public employees, the agricultural workers and the transport and general workers, is expected to be held soon to try to find a common front.

Tito setback

Belgrade, Feb 11.—President Tito's heart is showing signs of weakness, his doctors announced tonight. This is a further complication in the recovery of the 87-year-old leader from the recent amputation of his left leg.

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Sir Keith Joseph turning away as pickets barred his way near Briton Ferry, Swansea.

four yards from his car to the entrance. One county councillor, Mr Paul Flynn, a striking steelman, was prevented from entering the meeting as he chased Sir Keith upstairs, shouting: "You are mad. We hate you."

At Llanelli two steel pickets were arrested and charged with obstruction.

Later, Sir Keith said he found his reception unpleasant and disturbing. He was not entirely con-

vinced that all the demonstrators were steelworkers. He said of the protesters: "I would have been more impressed if they had organized someone to explain their point of view to me but I am not impressed by shouting."

Mr John Carberry, the divisional organizer for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "We do not want to speak to him. He is not welcome in Wales." Other steel news, page 2

Sharp increase in factory prices

Wholesale prices rose by 2.1 per cent in January, the largest monthly increase since April, 1977. The rise is a grim warning of inflationary pressures now in the pipeline. At the same time raw material costs shot up by 3.1 per cent, making the annual rise to 2.3 per cent. While factory prices are an indication of the likely level of shop prices in the coming months.

Big borrowing surplus

Government borrowing requirement is expected to be in line with Sir Geoffrey Howe's original forecast of 19.564m, despite a large surplus of £2.65m in the central government account in January. Business income tax receipts after the large rise in average earnings is the main reason for this substantial surplus.

Five children die in fire

Five children died in a blaze in Sunderland which an officer said was "the worst fire involving children that I have ever had to cope with." The mother of four of the children died in vain to save them.

Nazis jailed in Cologne

A Cologne court sentenced three former members of the Gestapo, including the one-time deputy chief in Paris, to prison terms of up to 12 years for complicity in murdering thousands of French Jews and communists deported from France during the Second World War.

Leader page 13

Letters: On unions and the law, from Professor P. S. Arshay, FSA, and others; on the abdication poll, from Lord Clancarty

Leading articles: Rhodesia; President Carter and Mr Kennedy

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HOME NEWS

Labour will examine new ways to end strike

By Paul Roudledge

Labour Editor

Mr James Callaghan and senior Shadow Cabinet colleagues will tonight examine the prospects for a political solution to the national steel strike, which enters its seventh week tomorrow.

Heading the list of ideas being floated by Labour politicians is a court of inquiry on the lines of the Wilberforce investigation into the coal industry, which prompted a speedy settlement of the critical 1972 miners' strike.

The Opposition is planning to put its ideas in Parliament, possibly in a motion of censure against the Government over its handling of the strike that has closed state steel plants since January 2.

The steel union leaders are to examine the political options in a meeting with the Shadow Cabinet at the House of Commons tonight.

Leaders of the dominant Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are more than interested in the prospect of a shortcoming of the industry in public but like the miners they are unlikely to call off their official stoppage while such a court sits.

Mr William Sirs, the steelworkers' leader, said last night: "My members are as determined as ever, and so am I. You only have to look at the telegrams I have received to see that the attitudes of our members on the picket lines have not changed."

The ISTC general secretary was speaking after his officials had tested opinion after the acceptance in principle of a 14 per cent pay and productivity deal by negotiators for 70,000 craft and general workers. Steel production workers would not accept such a settlement, Mr Sirs insisted. "They will only be influenced by a reasonable offer—and we have not seen that yet."

The ISTC executive is expected to be recalled to London later this week for a re-appraisal of the union's strike strategy and the blast furnace men's executive meets today to examine developments in the dispute, but officials of the Adjudication, Conciliation and Arbitration service will probably have to wait until tomorrow to meet leaders of the two unions.

The steel union leaders are convinced that industry is deliberately minimising the impact of the strike on supplies to manufacturing industry. They privately predict that many of Britain's export-oriented companies will feel the pinch within 10 days and they will "wait and see" before seeking resumed negotiations. Mr Sirs reaffirmed last night that a 13 per cent payment across the board from January 1, irrespective of local productivity, was required to get his negotiators back to the bargaining table.

Four held in clashes with police at private steel plant

By Frances Gibb

Four pickets were arrested yesterday after clashes between police and 200 striking steelworkers outside the privately owned Sheerness Steel works, where 500 men are defying their union's call to strike.

The arrests were the first since more than 150 flying pickets were drafted to the plant last Thursday after an overwhelming vote by Sheerness workers to ignore the strike call.

They occurred when pickets from Sheffield, Scunthorpe, South Wales and Teesside were joined by reinforcements from South Wales shortly before noon. The picket line has failed to deter workers from entering the plant and failed to stop all but a few lorries.

The striking steelworkers started to surge forward and push their way past 40 police officers brought in to supervise the picket lines.

Police have been trying to keep picketing under control by asking lorry drivers approaching the plant to stop at the picket lines rather than driving straight through.

Inspector Douglas Stevens said that the pickets, who were taken away to loud cheers and clapping, would probably be charged with obstructing the police.

The arrests came on a day when hostility to pickets on the island reached a head. A landlord of a public house called The Jolly Sailor was forced to ask pickets to leave after receiving an anonymous telephone call threatening that the house would be burnt down unless he refused to serve the striking steelworkers.

Mr Leonard Perrett said: "This chap phoned up asking if I was serving pickets. I said

BSC agrees to make no new purchases of foreign coal

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Agreement has been reached between the National Coal Board and the British Steel Corporation over the controversial issue of the level of sales of coking coal to the steel corporations this year.

BSC has agreed to make no new purchases of cheaper overseas coal although it had been considering an option to take 1.2 million tonnes more than the 3 million tonnes it imported last year.

As a result, the NCB's sales of coking coal will be held this year at 5 million tonnes, against deliveries last year of 7.2 million tonnes, while present import contracts will be maintained.

The overall reduction also reflects the effects of the strike, nearing its seventh week, and the much reduced level of

steelmaking which BSC expects in the future.

The main benefit will be to the South Wales coalfield, although there will still be a surplus of coking coal after the plans to scale down production at the Llanwern and Port Talbot steelworks.

The deal will involve the NCB increasing the level of its subsidy to the BSC from £15m to £22m in the face of the Government's refusal to provide additional steel subsidies.

Welcoming the agreement, Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, said that although there would still be a reduced demand for South Wales coking coal, it would not be as great as once seemed likely.

The NCB is continuing to produce coal despite the steel strike and is stockpiling and diverting supplies for electricity generation.

Laggers reject £2.60 an hour bonus plan

By Our Labour Staff

The threat to completion of Europe's biggest oil-fired power station, at the Isle of Grain, Kent, was intensified yesterday when the 60 laggers in the centre of the dispute there refused to work for a maximum bonus of £2.60 an hour.

The terms, rejected unanimously by a meeting of most of the laggers, were drawn up after talks between a replacement insulation firm, Cape Contracts, and the Central Electricity Generating Board, which already embarked on the first phase of a rundown of work.

The report says that cigarette manufacturers in the United Kingdom had agreed to be advised by a panel of scientists to be chaired by Professor W. W. Holland.

Developments in Tobacco Products and the Possibility of a Larger Cigarette, Second report of Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health: Stationery Office; £1.75.

Review of EEC rural aid vital, Lords report says

By John Young

Planning Reporter

EEC policies do little to assist deprived rural areas. The time has come for a radical review. That is the main conclusion of a report published today by the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities.

The report observes that, apart from the rural deprivation existing in Britain and other member states, the prospective enlargement of the rural community to include Greece, Portugal and Spain will bring further difficulties.

The relative poverty of the three new members can be expected to bring demands for a change in emphasis in regional and social policies, it says.

Marsh drainage opposed

By Our Planning Reporter

A public inquiry beginning today at Spalding, Lincolnshire, which would normally be regarded as of only local interest has assumed national and even European importance.

The inquiry is into an application for the drainage and reclamation of some 200 acres of salt marsh at Gedney Drove End, the south-western shore of the Wash.

The Ministry of Agriculture has approved a request for a drainage grant from the South Holland Internal Drainage Board, but the Department of the Environment has called in

No basic objection to inquests on all deaths in custody, federation chairman says

By Peter Evans

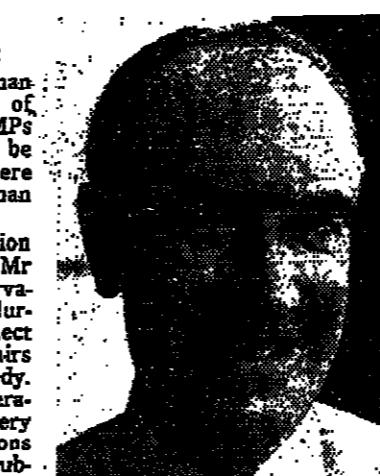
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, told MPs yesterday that it would be "utterly impossible" for there to be a cover-up if a policeman killed someone.

He was answering a question posed hypothetically by Mr William Waldegrave, Conservative MP for Bristol, West, during evidence to the Select Committee on Home Affairs about deaths in police custody.

Mr Jardine said that federation members had been "very upset" about generalizations that had been made on the subject. "I hope we have been able to clear the air a bit."

One death in police custody, if negligence was proved, was too



Mr James Jardine: "Clearing the air a bit".

inquests we can only assume the coroners were satisfied as to the cause of death on the basis of the available medical evidence and their knowledge of the circumstances."

The police federation also

advocated yesterday a policy of prohibition of all public marches and demonstrations which the chief constable believed were reasonably likely to lead to serious breaches of the law.

Mr J. Martucci, secretary of the federation, told the select committee that existing legislation under the Public Order Act might not always be sufficient to ensure that the professional advice of the chief officer was accepted.

"There is an obvious possibility that a local authority will reach a decision as to whether or not to impose a ban according to the political complexion of that authority."

Police officers were not medically trained. Though there were special rules for the regular and frequent supervision of drunken prisoners, nobody expected that the police would always be able to distinguish between drunkenness and some other illness.

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argued yesterday a policy of prohibition of all public marches and demonstrations which the chief constable believed were reasonably likely to lead to serious breaches of the law.

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"How much further will we have to go in this direction?" Annabel Ferriman writes: The British Youth Council asked Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, yesterday to set up an inquiry into relations between young people and the police.

The council suggested that the inquiry should look at areas where relations were satisfactory and draw up a blueprint of good practice which could be followed by police forces in other places.

Mr Steel woos the Tory moderates

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, last night opened his party's campaign to capture the Conservative-held seat of Southend East, in the forthcoming by-election, with a comment on the disillusionment of Conservative voters at the stern monetary approach being adopted by the Government and praise for those Cabinet ministers resisting those policies.

Addressing a regional party rally at the Southend High School for Girls, he welcomed the speech made in Cambridge last Thursday by Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal, who is one of the Cabinet ministers opposed to some of the ideas of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

There is a growing sense of despair in the country. It is particularly high among those who voted Conservative in May and who now are appalled to find themselves with a "do nothing" Government.

Mr Steel added that the Government did nothing to bring down inflation, to reduce crippling interest and mortgage rates, to settle the damaging steel strike or to stop public corporations placing orders overseas.

"This Government has elevated 'doing nothing' into a basic principle of political belief," he said.

With trade union reform, a sustained prices and incomes policy, and a new structure of industrial partnership, which included sharing of profit, "we could change the face of Britain from one of sickness to one of bright success".

That was a clear programme.

Mr Steel said which a majority of opinion would back if politicians came together to create a government of national reform. The Tory and Labour parties by their very structure and history were incapable of providing it. That is why a party of the centre, "a party to reassess the common purpose of our people, whatever their class or position in life", was desperately needed.

Glimmer speech, page 12

MP to ask about increased use of private bugging

By Our Political Correspondent

The threat to completion of Europe's biggest oil-fired power station, at the Isle of Grain, Kent, was intensified yesterday when the 60 laggers in the centre of the dispute there refused to work for a maximum bonus of £2.60 an hour.

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Greenpeace ship sets off for Cherbourg

By David Nicholson-Lord

Greenpeace volunteers are campaigning against the shipping of spent nuclear fuel set sail last night from Guernsey for Cherbourg ready to defend an order banning the environmental group from entering French territorial waters.

Leaders of Greenpeace said that they planned to intercept a cargo of spent fuel being shipped from Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, to Cherbourg on board the Pacific Swan, a British Nuclear Fuels vessel. The Pacific Swan left on Sunday.

Technology had produced a "radio pill" for medical research, Mr George said, which could easily be abused for non-medical spying. It gave off a signal strong enough to be followed at ranges of about five to twenty yards, and greater ranges were expected in the future.

The types and sophistication

of surveillance equipment now being used is frightening."

Tagging transmitters had been developed that could be fitted into hearing aids and watches for close-range shadowing.

Fluorescent dyes and powders could be secretly applied to a person's body, hair or clothing. They could not be seen in normal light, but when illuminated with an ultraviolet light source carried by the investigator the substances glowed and revealed the position of the person being followed.

Referring to a detailed report on private espionage in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday, Mr George said: "Much attention has been given recently to official bugging, but not much to the equally sinister private bug, and the use of electronic surveillance equipment.

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Suspected terrorists' right of silence angers Army in Ulster

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Senior Army officers and policemen in Northern Ireland are increasingly angry and frustrated over the right of a suspected terrorist to remain silent during interrogation.

There is intensive behind-the-scenes lobbying for a political response to what is seen as one of the most serious obstacles in removing known gunmen and bombers from the streets.

High-ranking soldiers, as well as the ordinary infantryman on patrol in Belfast, make no secret of their resentment. All they do is to see suspected terrorists, but know that arresting them would probably not lead to a conviction.

The tactic of silence is not only frustrating the ability to secure convictions. It also diminishes the effectiveness of routine screening of suspected terrorists and their supporters, which used to be a valuable way of gathering intelligence.

There is also despair among senior members of the security forces when convicted terrorists are granted remission on their prison sentences. One of the

Gunmen rob diamond dealer of £800,000

By Craig Seton

Three armed men escaped with jewelry and precious stones valued at £800,000 when they attacked a diamond dealer outside his London office yesterday. Police described the raid as "well planned, well timed, and "simply done".

The robbers, one with a sawn-off shotgun, carried out the raid at 11.30pm as Mr. Wilfred Hogg, aged 35, left his office in Kirby Street, just off Hatton Garden, with the valuables in bag and security vest.

Mr. Hogg was hit over the head, bundled into a van, tied, gagged, and left, dazed and shocked in Union Square, Islington, until a passer-by found him 40 minutes later and released him.

Apparently Mr. Hogg had called at his office alone to collect the valuables ready to fly to the Middle East for a sales trip.

Mr. Hogg was treated in hospital for shock. Det. Inspector Harry Davidson, of the robbery squad, said: "The robbery was very simply done by someone with very good information."

It was not unusual for jewellers "worth millions" to be carried in that area.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Mr. Franta Belsky, the sculptor (left), studying the half figure of Harry S. Truman which he made for the United States Army Corps of Engineers for installation at a dam to be named after him in Missouri. Yesterday Mr. William Waldren was giving finishing touches to the sculpture.

Bus takings in Midlands 'not paid in'

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

The West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive, whose income from fares for about £500,000 a year, has been audited by auditors that substantial sums are missing, an official of the executive said yesterday.

The executive will consider a report tomorrow from the auditors, Joscelyne Layton-Bennet, of Birmingham, chartered accountant.

The executive said it appeared that some of the 750 million coins put into the money "vaults" on buses in exchange for tickets every year had not been paid in.

Police may be asked to investigate the losses.

Dismissal of a second jail visitor

By Hugh Clayton

Fishmongers and owners of fish and chip shops who spoke on television about last August's riot at Wormwood Scrubs have been dismissed by the Home Office.

Miss Kay Douglas-Scott was told yesterday in a letter from the Inner London Probation Service that her accreditation as a voluntary associate, which enables her to visit prisoners, was not being renewed. She said she was "saddened and very upset" by the news.

Miss Douglas-Scott described yesterday's letter of dismissal, which said the decision was "in no way" related to the exercise of her right to talk to the media, as an insult.

Last month Mr. Jonathan Pollitzer was dismissed from his job as an official prison visitor. Both Miss Douglas-Scott and Mr. Pollitzer appeared last year on the programme, *Thames News*, and spoke of the riot, in which 54 prisoners and 11 prison officers were injured. Before their dismissal both said they had come under pressure to resign for making their views public.

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, who has been campaigning on behalf of Mr. Pollitzer and Miss Douglas-Scott, said yesterday that 75 MPs had signed his early-day motion calling for the reinstatement of Mr. Pollitzer.

Rock salmon becomes dogfish in new rules

By Hugh Clayton

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changes in food labelling law for 10 years. The ministry hopes that rules submitted to food companies and consumer groups yesterday will become law in less than a year.

The changes are needed because the EEC has issued a long directive about the approximation of the laws of member states.

The obligation on ministers to fit the EEC rules into British law has forced them to reject the appeal by the Government's own Food Standards Committee that ingredients should be listed on the labels of alcoholic drinks.

The ministry has decided, however, that they should be listed on foods like ice cream, biscuits and packed cakes.

Proposed new labelling of food regulations (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the most radical planned

strict liability to be imposed on the industry, the setting up of a register of explosions and the formation of a government team to investigate them.

The Gas Council said: "A number of independent inquiries into gas safety have found that our conduct is satisfactory or better. We always abide by recommendations for improvement, and we always cooperate fully with inquiries. Our safety record has been praised many times".

Gas explosions 'disgrace'

By a Staff Reporter

The safety record of the British gas industry was defended by the Gas Council last night in response to a report by the British Safety Council. The report says the industry's attitude to safety is "a national disgrace".

The report also claims that the industry is secretive, complacent and indifferent to the victim of explosions. It says there are three explosions a week and calls for a system of

In brief

Check clears cancer victim

A cancer victim, Mrs. Kays Kelly, of Walton, Liverpool, who has helped to raise more than £373,000 for cancer research, was told yesterday that she does not have breast cancer. Mrs. Kelly, aged 35, underwent surgery 12 days ago to remove lumps from her breasts, but tests have shown that the rumours were untrue.

She was told in 1978 that she had 12 months to live, but last August doctors said the cancer in her body had become dormant. She had feared that prolonged treatment for the latest symptoms would trigger off the dormant cancer.

30 moved out after landslip in village

Police led about 30 people, many of them elderly, from their homes early yesterday morning after a landslide in the coastal village of Hele, near Ilfracombe, Devon. The evacuation was ordered because it was feared that another rain-storm could send more earth and rocks tumbling down a steep hill on to 20 homes in Hillside Road.

40% rate rise plan

In defiance of Government guidelines, the Lothian Regional Council finance committee yesterday approved a total increase in domestic rates of more than 40 per cent in its 1980-81 budget of £303.7m, which is £34m above the Government limit. The domestic rate is still to be approved by the full council.

Overtime ban lifted

An overtime ban by 150 catering workers at the £4m Royal Liverpool hospital was lifted temporarily yesterday so that details of new work rota could be referred to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Faults in chimneys

Structural faults have been found in two boiler chimneys in the tower block at Guy's Hospital, London. The flaws are similar to those that caused the collapse of an incinerator chimney in 1978.

Oil kills 180 seabirds

Some 180 seabirds have died from oil pollution along a 40-mile stretch of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast from Mundesley to Lowestoft. It is not known where the oil came from.

No bus charges

The Conservative-controlled Essex education committee voted yesterday to drop proposals to charge parents for school transport.

Grouse moor's image takes a beating

The image of the grouse moor as a meticulously tended preserve for the rich was rudely dented yesterday. The Centre for Agricultural Strategy reported after a two-year investigation of the British uplands that some moors are scrubby and uneconomic, and do not deserve to survive.

Much of the three million acres of grouse moor in Britain was well tended and produced a good profit for the nation and

bear comparison with alternative land-use systems. The price for joining traditional shoot might be as much as £20 a bird.

Others, however, should be planted with trees to help the world timber shortage. They existed by receiving overflow birds from good moors near by and were supported financially by subsidies for hill sheep.

They failed the test to which the centre, which is attached

RAF suspends training after Buccaneer crash

The RAF yesterday denied that their Buccaneer aircraft have been grounded after last week's crash in the Nevada desert. But they have confirmed that flying training has been suspended pending the result of an investigation which began on Sunday in the United States.

The aircraft that crashed, killing the crew of two, was from 15 Squadron stationed at Larbruch, West Germany. It was taking part in the annual Red Flag exercises.

RSC's deficit threatens Aldwych season

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The financial state of the Royal Shakespeare Company is so precarious that it has been unable to plan any productions in London after next September, Mr. Trevor Nunn, the company's joint artistic director, said yesterday.

He announced details of productions for 1980-81, including five of the most popular Shakespeare plays at Stratford-on-Avon, which were chosen to ensure maximum ticket sales.

Mr. Nunn said that unless it received a substantial increase in its Arts Council grant, the

only way the company could save sufficient money would be to close its London operations at the Aldwych Theatre and the Warehouse. It would not be able then to move into the new theatre at the Barbican next year.

The company would end the present year with a deficit; it was already making economies on all fronts. Ticket prices will be increased for the new season: at Stratford by up to 20 per cent, with a top price of £10; at the Aldwych by about 17.5 per cent, with a top price of £7.50.

New productions at Stratford

begin in April with *As You Like It*, followed by *Romeo and Juliet*, with Judy Buxton and Anton Lesser as the lovers.

Hamlet, with Michael Pennington in the title role, will be directed by John Barton, and in the autumn Alan Howard will play the title roles in both *Richard II* and *Richard III*.

At the Aldwych there will be three transfers from Stratford: *Twelfth Night*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Othello*, with Donald Sinden as the Moor. A new adaptation of *Nicholas Nickleby*, by David Edgar, will be performed over two evenings.

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HOME NEWS

Mrs Shirley Williams sees Civil Service as brake mechanism delaying change and initiative

By a Staff Reporter

Mrs Shirley Williams, former Secretary of State for Education and Science, last night described the "British Civil Service" as "a beautifully designed and effective braking mechanism".

Delivering a Royal Institute of Public Administration lecture on "Policy and Practice" in London, she said civil servants were "much less effective as innovators and inventors". They could produce a hundred well argued answers against initiative and change.

Such characteristics were an asset when the country was bursting with initiative in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. But with the decline of manufacturing and engineering vitality, the Civil Service had become the most effective of Britain's negative forces.

Mrs Williams denied that senior civil servants exerted a hidden power in controlling the country's destiny. "Given what

they regard as wrong-headed leadership, they will argue and even obstruct, but will finally conform", she said.

Power, she added, lay inside the interlocking rings of the Civil Service, ministers and pressure groups. Pressure groups were a force easily neglected by the press. They took no responsibility for the changes they persuaded Whitehall to make and were not, therefore, accountable to the public interest.

Departmental advice to ministers was largely coloured by the last reform the ministry had undertaken, which was emblazoned "on a department's banner" and would be defended.

Mrs Williams suggested a number of areas for reform—Civil service recruitment should be changed, with more middle ranking officials promoted to top grades, more graduate recruitment from outside "Oxbridge", more experienced people entering late and

a greater interchange between Whitehall, industry and local government.

2—A recognition that the "fiction" of ministerial responsibility can no longer be sustained, with civil servants free to speak and therefore more accountable, before select committees.

3—A more "collegiate" system of Whitehall advice, with a minister able to choose between a variety of views and options proposed by civil servants.

4—Some kind of official freedom of information Act" was a certainty for "if not the next Parliament, then the one after" with less over-classification of documents.

5—The Leader of the Opposition should sit on the National Economic Development Council "so that he or she would be familiar with the views of the representatives of both the unions and the employers when the alternative party comes to office".

Directors of Churchills club cleared of charge

Harry Meadows and his son Andrew, directors of Churchills club, were cleared yesterday of living off prostitution earnings.

The jury of six men and six women at Knightsbridge Crown Court returned a verdict of not guilty after three hours and 20 minutes of deliberation on the twentieth day of the trial.

Mr Meadows, aged 61, of Chesterfield Gardens, Westminster, and his son, aged 36, of Queen Street, Westminster, both directors of Churchills club and the 21 Club, Mayfair, had denied the joint charge.

At an earlier stage in the trial Salvador Vella, a former head waiter, was cleared of living off the earnings of prostitutes.

Before sending the jury out Judge Morton said the prosecution did not allege that more than a minority of Churchills' hostesses were acting as prostitutes.

He told them: "There may be, for all I know, night clubs in London which are little more than takeaway brothels. But if there are, Churchills is not one of them."

He said it was abundantly clear from what witnesses had said that Churchills was a well run and well equipped place of entertainment, providing good food and drink. It was a place for the family, with nice old fashioned floor show.

The judge described Churchills as "one of the best, if not the best, night club in London".

The accused were applauded from the public gallery as the verdicts were announced.

Later at the 21 Club Mr Meadows received congratulations from many members. He said that he and his son were "shocked and flabbergasted" at the police accusations.

"I had no doubt about the outcome, because we have never done anything wrong in our lives and we shall never do so."

Asked about the future of Churchills club, he said the lease might be sold "to the Arabs". But he added: "We have no intention of giving up the 21 Club."

Whitehall brief: The chosen few

Britain ruled by 'permanent coalition' since 1945

By Peter Hennessy

An almost respectable case can be made for arguing that the United Kingdom has been governed by a permanent coalition since 1945. Every time a Cabinet, whatever its political colour, has come up against a known issue, like what to do with the aircraft industry or how to reform the Official Secrets Act, it has sent for Lord Plowden, Lord Franks, OM, or some other member of the "Good and Great" to suggest a way out.

A mystique has grown up around the "Good and Great", that is only partially dispelled when one discovers that the celebrated list containing their names is inscribed not on vellum but on an indexed curriculum vitae in a row of metal filing cabinets inside the Old Admiralty Building in Whitehall. Its custodian is Mr Jonathan Charkham, Director of the Official Secrets Act, it has sent for Lord Plowden, Lord Franks, OM, or some other member of the "Good and Great" to suggest a way out.

The main purpose of his job is to offer departments as wide a spread of people as possible for appointments in their gift. Since 1975 the unit has made strenuous efforts to find more women (still only 15 to 20 per cent of the list), more people under 30 and more potential appointees from the regions, he told the select committee last week.

It is difficult to measure success, but Whitehall departments are making three times as much use of the list as in pre-unit days.

The planned second stage for opening the system, along the lines proposed by Dr Donoghue, involved a system of notices pinned up in post offices inviting the public to recommend themselves or others to recommend others for public appointment to boards and advisory committees.

Mr Charkham's unit was established five years ago as a first step towards greater openness and accessibility. The initiative came from Dr Bernard Donoghue, senior policy adviser to Sir Harold Wilson, who was then Prime Minister. The old system, Dr Donoghue recalled last week, often involved a minister being given "just three names for a job, two of whom were unsuitable, the other being the person the department wanted". He went on: "I always felt that appointments to public positions should be open and clearly made upon

considerations of merit and not the subject of what is effectively the private patronage of ministers and mandarins. The Public Appointments Unit has already improved that." Jonathan Charkham and his unit have done a serious and valuable job, but they have not been allowed to go the full way.

The existence of a vacancy should be advertised. The principle is maximum advertisement so that people can apply and recommend others.

Mr Charkham's present list contains 4,000 names, none of which he can disclose.

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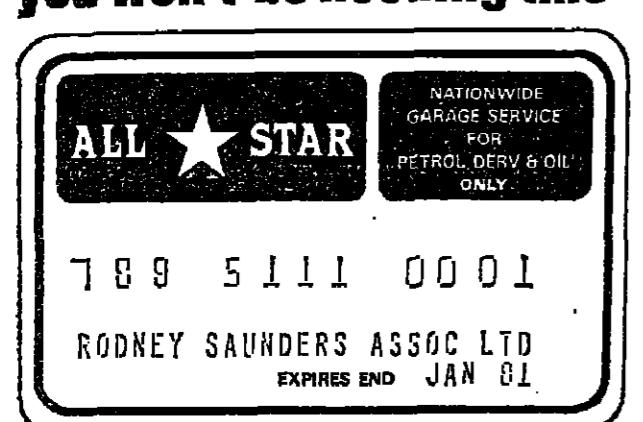
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Libel action jury read 'Johnny Go Home' book

Boiling cooking oil no way to combat crime

John Chartres reports on police efforts to help Merseyside's Chinese community

Pouring boiling oil out of upper windows and putting high-voltage charges across window grilles are not acceptable methods of crime prevention, the Chinese community in Liverpool was told yesterday.

In an attempt to reduce the level of thefts, vandalism and violence to which the many Chinese restaurant and fish-and-chip shop proprietors on Merseyside say they are subjected, a team of police officers addressed a group of about 40 of them and gave advice on more conventional methods of coping with crime.

The difficulty, it seemed, was communication. Many of the 10,000 members of the oldest

Chinese community in Europe act as the direct link with Merseyside police.

Mr Wang said after yesterday's conference: "The restaurants and fish-and-chip shops are not only the working places of Chinese people but their homes as well, and often the whole family depends on the shop in operations rooms perhaps because of over-excitement and speaking too fast.

Arrangements are being made through the Merseyside Chinese Community Service for interpreters to be on call, particularly during the high-risk hours after public houses close on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mr Brian Tai-shan Wang, the Chinese community officer, will be working for its livelihood.

The police team, led by Superintendent Blackburn, in charge of the police public relations department, and Chief Inspector "Tiny" Isaac, of the crime prevention department, promised that officers would visit premises to give detailed advice on security locks and other devices.

Some of the businessmen criticized the police for having failed to answer calls or being slow to respond.

Greater confidence between the community and the police is sought—and arrangements are being made for football matches and other sporting events to be staged between them.

Budget cut of £1.5m by the Spastics Society

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Inflation, higher VAT and the effect on its covenanted income of reduced income tax have forced the Spastics Society to cut its budget by £1.5m. The cuts will mean a reduction in staff and office accommodation and fewer personal services to people handicapped by cerebral palsy.

Employment services will be particularly badly affected. The society proposes to end its research into employment for the severely handicapped and to close down its aids development service and the resources communications department, which provides training services.

The society also plans to close a school for handicapped children, Irton Hall, in Holmebrook, Cumbria, and to reduce spending on holidays and recreation for disabled people, as well as cutting advertising and ending any further development programmes.

Hard years ahead: Mr James Loring, the society's director, said: "The cuts are a sensible move to prepare ourselves for what everyone realizes will be very hard years ahead" (the Press Association reports).

Spastics people "cared for by us are among the most severely disabled in the country. Many of them cannot move more than one toe or one finger. They can't all the help and care they can get," he said.

"We now appeal to a general public to help us out of our difficulties by sending in donations. A further way of helping the society and all other charities would be for the Government to allow charitable donations to be deductible for tax purposes."

Five children die in home blaze

A mother's attempt to save five children from a blazing house failed yesterday when she had to jump from a bedroom window with her clothes burning.

Her four children and a baby-sitter died in the fire, which swept through her semi-detached council home in Plesseywood Square, Penywell, Sunderland.

Roused by smoke, Mrs Sandra Bannen, aged 30, ran to the bedroom and managed to get her two of the children. But she could not hold on and was forced to climb out of a window after being set on fire.

She dropped to the garden below and was later seriously ill in hospital.

Mrs Bannen and her husband, Terence, aged 32, were asleep in a downstairs room when the fire broke out.

He said there was no question of crime. "It was probably just a tragic accident."

Their children, Sonya, aged eight; Shelly, aged six; Mark, aged four; and John, aged 2, were upstairs with Tracy Sproates, aged 13, their baby-sitter.

The couple, helped by neighbours, tried to rescue their babies but were beaten back by flames and smoke.

Firemen found the children's bodies on and around a bed.

Station officer Alan Cartledge said the house was reduced to a shell. The structure had gone, which was why the children were unable to get downstairs.

He added: "You never get used to sights such as this", he said.

Mr Cartledge said last night: "Investigations are still going on. There were some clothes near the fire and we believe they could have caused the blaze. But it is equally possible it could have been caused by a faulty socket."

He said there was no question of crime. "It was probably just a tragic accident."

Expansion of Stansted would

draw on the labour supply in the East End of London.

There had been justifiable concern about the establishment of airport-related firms outside airport boundaries in areas which conflicted with local planning authorities' development plans. A notable example had been the increase of hotels on the Bath road at Heathrow.

The authority was aware of the need to contain airport activities within an airport's boundary.

At Gatwick it had ensured that land was available within the airport perimeter to meet future car-parking needs.

As Stansted developed, the authority's policy would be to acquire sufficient land to provide containment of all airport activities if the local planning

authorities required it, he said.

Mr Payne's idea is unlikely to quell the growing protests from environmental and amenity groups around Stansted over plans to expand the airport to handle 15 million passengers a year in this decade and possibly 50 million in the future.

The protest groups are raising funds for them to be represented at a planning inquiry into the expansion plans.

The size of aircraft, with larger groups of passengers, would have the greatest effect on airports in the next decade, Mr Payne said. Larger Boeing 747s carrying more than 600 passengers would operate on the denser routes.

Mr Payne said he was cautiously optimistic about the air-

lines' oil prospects. Larger and more fuel-efficient aircraft operated with greater fuel economy and higher loads would enable them to protect fares from the full blast of rising fuel prices.

Newcastle development: The Government is to lend £5.137,000 for extensions to Newcastle upon Tyne airport, the North-East Regional Airport Committee announced yesterday (our Newcastle Correspondent reports).

The terminal extension will enable it to handle up to two million passengers a year, the forecast for 1990, against 900,000 now.

Work will start in May and should be completed in two years.

Mr Payne said he was

Home Office pays damages to shoe firm

The Home Office is to pay undisclosed libel damages and costs to Edwards and Holmes of Norwich, shoe manufacturers, a High Court judge in London was told yesterday.

The company had complained that a Home Office pamphlet in March, 1977, had included a photograph of its trade-marked shoes with an article about employee dishonesty.

Mr John Camp, counsel for the company, said someone looking at the photograph could wrongly conclude that the defendant was well placed in his job.

Mr Simon Burton, counsel for the Home Office, said they wished to make it clear that the article referred to the company or its employees.

Mr Justice Phillips gave leave for the record of the action to be withdrawn.

Bus drivers get punch shields

Some bus drivers in Nottingham are to have tough plastic shields fixed around their driving seats to protect them from the punches of drunken passengers.

The city's transport department agreed yesterday to install the shields on two buses to test public reaction.

Army horse show off

The Army's annual horse show at Aldershot, which has attracted top riders including Princess Anne, has been cancelled this year and is unlikely to be staged again. Lack of support is blamed.

Retired boxer fined

Chris Finnegan, aged 35, the retired boxer, was fined £5 at West London Court yesterday after he admitted being drunk at a public house in Shepherd's Bush on Saturday.

Plea not to rush fourth TV channel

By Kenneth Gosling

WEST EUROPE

M Barre forecasts a slowing down in economic activity

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 11.

M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, said in a broadcast today that he did not believe there would be a recession in industrialized countries this year, but he did not rule out a slight slowing down of economic activity in relation to 1979. France had made efforts to contain the rate of inflation under 10 per cent, he added, but it would not be easy.

He insisted once again, as he often has in the past, that a rise in the price index did not necessarily mean inflation when, for instance, it was caused by a rise in the cost of energy.

The evolution of oil prices did not depend so much on the oil producers. "It also depends on our capacity to economize energy, to develop new sources of energy, and to stabilize our currencies so that oil producers can be paid in currencies which do not lose their value."

France had long ago undertaken a policy of diversifying its sources of oil supplies. Although its main suppliers were Saudi Arabia and Iraq, which had always behaved very correctly towards France, it also bought oil from other countries outside the Middle East. The main guarantee of French energy supplies was the development of the French nuclear programme.

As for energy saving, he went on, France led the way for other countries. During his recent visit to New York where he delivered two lectures on economics to private institutions, great interest had been shown by American businessmen and other personalities in the French energy saving programme.

M Barre admitted that the recycling of oil from the additional \$10,000m (42,820m) oil producing countries would earn through the latest price increases could no longer be handled, as it had been hitherto, by private banking institutions.

The international community

would have to devise a way of recycling these dollars in such a way as to avoid a flood of dollars on the markets, which could undermine the American currency and upset the exchanges.

M Barre thought the rush on gold was quite normal in a period of international political instability and monetary uncertainty. The moment was a return to stability in each of the countries of the West and in international monetary relations.

He had told the Foreign Policy Association that the view that gold could be excluded from international monetary relations was "purely illusory". He was not in favour of a return to the gold standard. But gold would have to play a part in these relations as a reserve instrument.

"It must be possible to exchange in between central banks, at the market price, and the central banks must not consider that the most intelligent attitude to adopt is to sell gold on the markets."

He added: "We have enough trouble with the dollar and sterling not to add to the problems which we have to face."

Turning to foreign trade, M Barre said there was no reason why if France produced goods of quality at competitive prices the country should not maintain its share of overseas markets and even increase it, even though international demand slowed down. France had done so in the past three years.

He had always said that purchasing power could be upheld in this country. This had been done since 1976, and he was not convinced by the statistics produced to demonstrate that it had fallen in 1979.

The maintaining of purchasing power was linked to the productivity of the French economy, and especially to the efforts French firms made in management and in adapting to the domestic and foreign markets. If this effort was made, purchasing power could be upheld.

Herr Heinrichsohn immediately resigned as Mayor of the



Judgment day: Filing into the courtroom in Cologne to hear the verdict are Herr Lischka (seated, head in hand), Herr Hagen (centre) and Herr Heinrichsohn (right). All were found guilty of deporting 73,000 French Jews to Auschwitz.

Prison terms for former Gestapo officials

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Feb 11.

Three former members of the Gestapo in German-occupied Paris were today given prison sentences of six to 12 years for deporting thousands of French Jews to their deaths in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

The Cologne court, however, rejected a demand by the public prosecutor that they be arrested and they are expected to remain free pending their appeal.

Herr Kurt Lischka, aged 70, a former Gestapo deputy chief in Paris, was sentenced to 10 years' jail and Herr Herbert Hagen, 66, former personal assistant to the SS and police chief in France, got 12 years.

Herr Ernst Heinrichsohn, 59, a lesser official in the SS Jewish department in Paris, was sentenced to six years.

Herr Heinrichsohn immediately resigned as Mayor of the

Bavarian town of Bürgstadt and from the Christian Social party. All three were found guilty of aiding and abetting the murder of many of the 73,000 French Jews who were deported under the wartime occupation.

Dr Heinz Fassbender, president of the court, rejected the defendants' claim that they had no idea the Jews were going to their deaths. They said they thought they were going to work camps or to found a new Jewish state.

Dr Fassbender said that, although the three were not the leading figures in the Jewish extermination programme, it would have been "more than strange" if they had not been fully aware of what was going to happen to the Jews. All three had expected at least the possibility that the Jews would be killed.

The verdict, 37 years after the end of the Second World War, closed one of the less glorious chapters in the history of retribution for Nazi criminals. It is doubtful if the trial could have taken place without the efforts of French Jews, particularly Maître Serge Karsfeld, a Paris lawyer whose father died in Auschwitz.

Their pressure—including a stay in the fact for the then Chancellor, Dr Kurt Kiesinger, from Me Karsfeld's wife Beate, and an attempt by the couple to kidnap Herr Lischka—spurred the West German authorities to change the laws which prevented them from being brought to justice.

Groups of French Jews have been in court throughout the trial and recently demonstrated outside to demand justice.

Me Karsfeld, who represented many of them at the trial, said recently that the

sentences of 12 years demanded by the public prosecutor would be adequate in view of men as evil as Herr Lischka and Herr Hagen, they amounted to life sentences.

Dr Fassbender said the panel of three judges and two members of the public considered Herr Hagen to be the main culprit because he had served longer in France and, as a Nazi intellectual, had influenced the younger generation of Germans.

Herr Heinrichsohn was described by French witnesses as particularly brutal and sadistic in his treatment of children.

All three defendants pursued successful careers in postwar West Germany. Herr Lischka, now retired, became director of an export-import firm; Herr Hagen was a business manager; Herr Heinrichsohn a lawyer.

Me Karsfeld, who represented many of them at the trial, said recently that the

Reuter.

Sentence on five over baby deaths

Pontaise, France, Feb 11.—Five people were given suspended prison sentences today in connexion with the deaths seven years ago of 33 babies who were doused with a poisoned talcum powder.

The powder was found to have contained excessive quantities of the chemical hexachlorophene, added in error and since banned in hygiene products in France.

The suspended sentences passed on officials of the companies which produced and sold the powder ranged from one to 20 months imprisonment. One man was acquitted.

The court ordered the five to pay a total of 2m francs (£228,000) in damages to the parents of the dead babies, as well as to those of 45 other infants who suffered severe physical damage.

The manufacturers of the hexachlorophene additive have already paid 7m francs in damages to families affected by the powder.—Reuter.

Strike by air controllers hits Portugal

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Feb 11.

The first stage of a threatened 96-hour strike by control tower staff at Lisbon's Portela Airport paralysed traffic from midnight. It ends at midnight tomorrow. The next stage starts at midnight on Thursday and is due to last until midnight on Friday, involving all of Portugal's nine airports.

Only emergency flights were allowed, and the only regular air services expected were those between the Portuguese mainland and Madeira and the Azores. More than 1,000 flights, involving Portuguese and other airlines, have been cancelled.

The strike is in support of better pay and working conditions as well as improved security measures at the airport which have a low rating by pilots at present.

Bucharest links

Brussels, Feb 11.—The European Community and Romania have agreed to set up a high-level joint commission to handle all trade problems between them.

Heavy fines on price ring firms

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 11.

The Government has sharply called to order leading manufacturers and distributors of household appliances for setting up illicit price rings and restraints in trade.

Mr René Monory, the Minister for Economic Affairs, acting on the recommendations of the Commission for Competition, has decided to impose fines ranging from 1m to 2.5m francs (£111,000 to £277,000) on a number of them, including Darty—one of the biggest and most dynamic distributors—Arthur Martin, Philips, Lincoln, Schneider and Thomson.

Although the fines are lower than those suggested by the commission, they are the heaviest imposed since it came into existence in July, 1977.

Defence officials face bribes charges

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 11.

Six officials of the French Ministry of Defence and the Paris Transport Board, accused of involvement in a case of large-scale corruption by an industrial firm in Lorraine, appeared before an examining magistrate today at Bar-le-Duc.

They have been charged with accepting bribes, amounting to more than £10,000 in the case of the main defendant, a senior official in the Air Force section at the Defence Ministry. Warrants are expected to be issued against a number of other people.

The case follows the fraudulent bankruptcy in November 1978 of the construction firm of Roumès and Co, of Ligny-en-Barrois, which employed 250 workers. An investigation by the financial and economic squad of the Special Branch uncovered a number of irregularities in the firm's accounts and the existence of a secret fund.

The firm's bankruptcy and its judicial liquidation surprised the inhabitants of the district where it was thought to be a profitable enterprise. It won the contract for building the freight terminal at Roissy (Charles de Gaulle) airport.

French raise oil issue at EEC budget discussion

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Feb 11.

Britain's hopes of obtaining a speedy reduction in its large net contribution to the EEC budget appeared to have suffered a setback here today, when France adopted a hard-line attitude and argued that the problem was no longer pressing.

M René Monory, the French Economics Minister, told a meeting of EEC Economics and Finance ministers that oil price increases since the last EEC summit in Dublin at the end of November had improved Britain's economic position.

He claimed that while France faced an oil bill of 100,000m francs (£10.7m) this year, Britain's balance of payments had moved into surplus. The rise in the value of sterling by 8 per cent since Dublin meant that there was now less of a gap between Britain's nominal gross national product and the European Community.

Heavy fines on price ring firms

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 11.

The activities of the commission have been markedly stepped up since the summer of 1978, when, after the parliamentary elections, the Government announced the liberalization of industrial prices, and later of retail prices, thus going back on more than 30 years of price controls, which had never been really effective.

But the counterpart of this new freedom was the encouragement of competition and the prosecution of all forms of restraint in trade.

Since its creation, the commission has investigated a number of breaches of free competition, and the minister has sanctioned them.

The action taken against

exposed the new marketing device called "contract of confidence" between the distributor and the client, which consisted in rewarding those who could produce proof that they had found the same appliance cheaper elsewhere. Many did.

As a result, Darty informed manufacturers that many retailers were cutting prices, and selling below its own. The manufacturers in turn brought pressure to bear on retailers to raise their prices.

The firm of Darty has reacted strongly. It claims it is a victim of its notoriety and success. It has, it says, never made any agreements with manufacturers or other distributors to peg prices.

Philippe claims that the French anti-trust legislation, which dates from 1945, is no longer adapted to the EEC.

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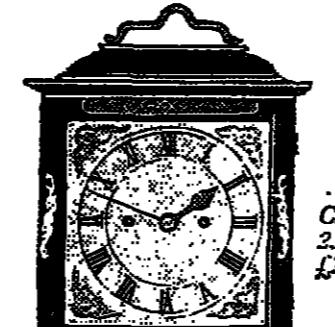
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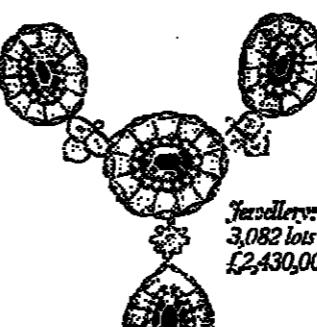
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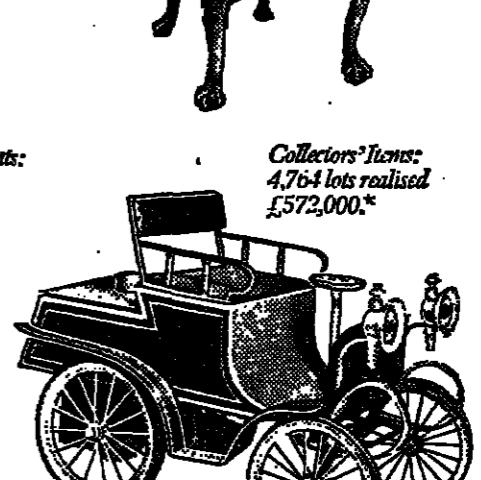
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OVERSEAS

Mr Kennedy emerges from defeat as a stronger challenger

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 11

Although President Carter has recorded his second win in this year's Presidential race, Senator Edward Kennedy, his main rival for the Democratic nomination, has emerged as a much stronger challenger than had earlier seemed likely.

On his return to Washington last night, when the first returns from yesterday's town caucuses in Maine showed a narrow victory for the President, a boisterous Senator Kennedy told his supporters that his strong second-place finish made him "confident" that he would do well in future contests in New Hampshire and all the other states.

"Four days ago we were 19 (percentage) points behind President Carter". Mr Kennedy said in a reference to a public opinion poll published in a Maine newspaper last week. "And tonight we are in a dead heat with him."

This analysis of the results as they then stood was somewhat misleading since it was already apparent that President Carter would be the front-runner, albeit by a narrow margin.

But after his humiliating defeat in Iowa last month when he was defeated by Mr Carter by a two to one margin, Mr Kennedy had good reason to feel gratified by yesterday's outcome.

With 36 per cent of the result declared, the President secured 45 per cent and Mr Kennedy 35.6 per cent of the votes counted. Mr Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, who was making his first serious run of this year, was rewarded with a surprisingly strong third-place finish, gaining 13.3 per cent of the total vote.

Senator Kennedy's supporters were equally jubilant about the results. Mr Joseph Brennan, the Governor of Maine and the senator's main backer in that state, described the outcome as a "great victory" for Mr Kennedy because the President had failed to win a majority of the total vote.

The Senator's press secretary said he was "delighted, just delighted" — feelings which was undoubtedly reinforced when an opinion poll in today's *Boston Globe* showed that Mr Kennedy was leading the President 62 to 39 per cent in Massachusetts, the Senator's home state which will hold its primary on March 4.

Not to be outdone by the enthusiasm in the Kennedy camp, supporters of the President made great play of the fact that Mr Carter had beaten Mr Kennedy in the latter's native New England.

"If he (Mr Kennedy) can't win here, where he has an unlimited ability to put in resources and people and he has the field to himself, with the President locked in the White House, then where can he win?" Mr Jody Powell, the President's press

spokesman, asked rhetorically.

His campaign manager, Mr Robert Strauss, described the results as a "good solid win". From Camp David, the presidential retreat in the hills of Maryland, Mr Carter issued a statesmanlike message congratulating both Senator Kennedy and Mr Brown for their "strong well-organized" campaigns. "I am grateful to the Democrats of Maine for this welcome vote of support", he said.

For his part, Mr Brown said he deserved growing public interest in the issues he has been emphasizing like opposition to nuclear energy and conscription. "Both Carter and Kennedy dropped and my campaign gathered strength", he told reporters.

Mr Carter's supporters conceded that Senator Kennedy's apparent comeback may be partly due to his strong attacks on the President's plans for a resumption of conscription for military conscription. They believe this may have helped the senator's campaign by providing more student volunteers to canvass in Maine, as well as attracting more young voters to take part in the caucuses.

Certainly the turn-out in the caucuses was five times higher than during the 1976 presidential election when only 6,800 Democrats voted. Nevertheless, the more than 30,000 people who cast their ballots yesterday represented only a tiny proportion of the 242,000 registered Democrats in the state.

Mr Kennedy explained his strong showing by pointing to the President's continuing reluctance to exchange the comforts of the White House for the trials of the campaign trail. "The majority of the members of the Democratic Party want the President out of the White House to debate", he said.

"What I saw in the state of Maine were parents that were deeply concerned about whether their children were going to be sent overseas to the Persian Gulf and they went to hear a debate on the issues of war and peace," he added.

Notwithstanding such criticism, however, the President's campaign organizers have already made it clear that Mr Carter does not intend to indulge in any overt politicking until the 50 hostages are released from the American Embassy in Tehran. "I cannot imagine the President would even consider a campaign policy as long as the hostages are held", Mr Powell told reporters.

The three contenders for the Democratic nomination are now turning their attention to New Hampshire, where this year's first primary is due to be held on February 26. All of them are predicting an even tougher race than in Iowa and Maine with the ressure once again on Senator Kennedy, who will now be expected to follow up with a performance as good if not better than yesterday's.

Leading article, page 13

FBI men in bribes inquiry posed as insurance agents

From Michael Binyon
New York, Feb 11

Last week's disclosure of the "Abscam" inquiry into official corruption by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has provoked a flood of new reports about comparable investigations. At the weekend, three new cases came to light.

The most senior politician involved is Mr Edwin Edwards, the Governor of Louisiana. He has received a subpoena to appear before a grand jury in New Orleans investigating allegations of bribes in the awarding of state insurance contracts.

FBI men, who posed as Arab sheikhs in the Abscam investigation, this time impersonated insurance agents. It is alleged that they offered large sums of money to state officials, some of whom accepted.

Mr Edwards had no comment on the accusation but Mr James FitzMorris, the Lieutenant Governor, who has also been subpoenaed, denied that he had ever accepted money for political favours.

A second case concerns alleged bribery of immigration officials in New York in return for the issue of "green cards" which allow foreigners to settle in the United States. The New York Daily News today published more than two pages of what it claims are transcripts of bugged conversations be-

tween an immigration agent and a city official.

The agent was an undercover man for the FBI. In the discussion the official boasted that he had up to 10 other people in the Immigration Department working for him. The final transcript portrays the undercover man counting out \$1,500 (£650) in money given to the official.

Today's third disclosure involves Mr John Murphy, a Democratic member of Congress representing Staten Island, whose name had already dropped up in the Abscam inquiry.

Newsday, the Long Island newspaper, alleges that associates of Mr Murphy offered to use his influence to arrange a merger between a shipping company and the Puerto Rican Marine Authority. If he received a share of the new company in return.

This seemingly unaccountable outpouring of allegations provoked a scathing editorial in the Washington Post. It makes the point that "the whole ambience of Congress rests on a system of trades and transactions that, if not downright corrupt, are at best morally ambiguous."

The leader goes on to question whether the undercover methods used by the FBI were not as corrupt as the acts they were investigating.

12 injured but terrorist attack misfires

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Feb 11

A terrorist bomb made of Israeli army grenades went off at a bus station in Petah Tikvah early today injuring 12 people. A military source said greater damage was averted because the bomb had been ineptly assembled.

Four grenades were used and these were apparently to have detonated a block of explosives but one of the grenades and the explosives failed to go off. Witnesses said 20 people left the area by bus shortly before the blast.

Police set up roadblocks and detained 50 Arabs for questioning. They said it was the fourth bomb laid in the area in the past year.

Correction

A poem quoted by Michael Binyon in a recent column from Moscow on Feb. 5 was taken from the Soviet weekly, *Oznamy*, not *Soviet Weekly*, as stated.

Poles hear warning of austerity period

From Dessa Treviran
Warsaw, Feb 11

Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader, today warned the nation of five years of austerity ahead, and the world of dangerous repercussions if the present international tension was to continue.

Poland, he said in a four-hour speech to the party congress which opened today, had a moral right to warn others against that danger, and he left no doubt of the deep anxiety felt here.

Like other members of the Warsaw Pact, Poland sees the beginning of that development in Nato's decision to deploy new missiles in Western Europe, the implication being that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was the follow-up to it.

Mr Gierek said that Nato's decision had opened up a new and dangerous stage of the arms race, heightened by the fact that West Germany agreed to the deployment.

Poland had welcomed with hope the signing of Salt, the strategic arms limitation treaty, and was therefore deeply disturbed by the decision to delay ratification.

Mr Gierek assured the Soviet Union of Poland's "unifying link and ideological and political unity" with the Warsaw Pact, which resulted from the most vital interests of the Polish nation.

Poland is obviously worried by the prospect of prolonged coolness in East-West relations, and the Poles have a vested interest in détente. It enabled Mr Gierek to pursue more distinct Polish policies and he realizes that any deterioration in these relations reduces the scope of activity of small and medium members of both alliances.

Much of Mr Gierek's speech was concerned with a review of Polish performance in the past decade since he came to power. The party's role in the wave of national discontent with the policies of his predecessor, Mr Wladyslaw Gomulka, brought to a head by

explosions. Party officials said the bombs caused extensive damage but no injuries.

Police sources said the banned Turkish Communist Party, operating from Berlin and other leftist groups were responsible for the attacks.

In Ankara, Mr Suleiman Demirel, the Prime Minister, called the rioters "bandits" and said that those who "aim to turn Turkey into another Korea, Afghanistan or Cuba will suffer."

The Aegean port of Izmir, the only Turkish city free of martial law, flickered with sporadic violence after the mass riots which erupted throughout its ports yesterday.

A policeman injured when hundreds of rioters took to the streets in support of the

riots died today, officials said.

The leftists yesterday opened fire on a police patrol vehicle in the route to the city's airport by building barricades and burning car tyres, witnesses said, and the Anatolian news agency reported violence between riot police and built barricades to help the militants escape.

Some 200 Leftists found refuge in the factory, where many of them had recently lost their jobs. Police were expected to take control at the siege later today, sources said.

Meanwhile, students from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, many shouting

support for an illegal group called the Revolutionary Party, demonstrated in support of the

Leftists yesterday.

Police said two students were injured and more than 70 arrested—UPI.

Shifts in French policy on invasion irk Washington

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 11

The Carter Administration is both bemused and somewhat irked by what it regards as rapid shifts in French Government policy towards the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

In the light of this uncomprising stance, it had seemed entirely natural that the French would want to join their allies in working out a coordinated approach to the Afghanistan crisis, the officials said.

Nevertheless, they concede that the French policy has been more volatile than usual since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. They recall that Paris initially took a mild view of the invasion but subsequently toughened its stand considerably. They now see last week's change of heart as part of this vacillating trend.

The reasons for this uncharacteristic volatility are not clear here. But some officials surmise that there may be differences of opinion within the French Government, with the President adopting a softer line towards Moscow than his foreign policy advisers.

In contrast, however, the officials fear that any sign of division within the ranks of their principal Western powers is likely to be exploited by Moscow at a critical juncture in East-West relations.

The Administration was particularly irked not so much by France's refusal to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the United States, West Germany, Britain and Italy on February 20, but by its explanation for declining the invitation. Last week, the French gave the impression that the meeting was being thrust on the Europeans against their

The officials insist that such an explanation is far from the truth. In fact, the yes, the West Germans took the lead in arranging the meeting and it had appeared all along that the French were quite willing to take part. It was only last week when the arrangements seemed to have been completed that the French backed out.

The sudden withdrawal of French participation came as something of a surprise in Washington because President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, had issued a tough statement last week

for individual meetings.

Mr Bani-Sadr sets terms for freeing hostages

Paris, Feb 11.—The hostages held at the American embassy in Tehran could be released within a few days, if an international commission were set up to examine the record of former Shah. President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr of Iran said in an interview published here today.

President Carter responded to questions raised by Mr Bani-Sadr's interview with *Le Monde* by describing his statement that the hostages might be released if the United States were to express "self-criticism," as "interesting."

He added that further comment would be delayed until the State Department saw the full text of the interview.

Determined captors: The 49 hostages entered their 100th day of captivity today and their militant student captors were sticking to their declared intention of only freeing them when the deposed Shah returns to Iran to be tried.

Ayatollah misses parade: Ayatollah Khomeini did not attend today's military parade in honour of last year's revolution, on the advice of his doctors.

His absence caused speculation about his health since he is recovering from a heart complaint. But doctors denied any relapse by saying their advice was given because of the cold weather. Bani-Sadr was among the spectators.

Three people were killed when they were run over by a tank at the close of the parade. The crush of more than a million in Tehran's Azadi (freedom) Square made it almost impossible for some spectators to parade in front of the official stand.

Earlier a stand collapsed in the square and at least 57 people were injured, though none seriously according to hospital sources.—Reuters, UPI and Agence France-Presse.



Heavily armed pro-Izmir leftists brought violence on to the streets

Bombs last Izmir party office

From Michael Binyon
Izmir, Turkey, Feb 11

Armenians leftists bombed the headquarters of the ruling Justice Party today and held

skirmishes with

running police.

The Armenians leftists

bombed the party offices

and dozens of officials

and armed police

explosives.

Three pro-leftists

and a policeman

were injured.

The Armenians leftists

نماذج المجلة

OVERSEAS

Mr Fraser's fortunes rise with changing mood of the electors

From Douglas Aitken
Melbourne, Feb 11
Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, is beginning the new parliamentary session with his stature greatly enhanced by his overseas trips and the Afghanistan crisis.

With a federal election due in December, his overseas travels have been judged here as a rousing success. The Australian Labour Party seems unable to make any impact at all and lately it has managed only to draw attention to its internal troubles.

Before the new parliamentary session begins next week, Mr Fraser will have made a report to the nation on his travels. On the same day, Mr William Hayden, the Labour Party leader is to announce his party's housing policy as part of his election strategy.

The Afghan crisis has worked in Mr Fraser's favour. Since he took office in 1975, he has been sounding warnings of the potential threat of Soviet expansion to the fears of the Opposition and the scepticism of much of the electorate. Now his stance has been vindicated. The timing for Mr Fraser's travels could not have been better.

The mood has been distinctly changing in Australia, perhaps largely as a result of a longer disapproval of the brief period of Mr Gough Whitlam's premiership.

In a 1967 public opinion poll, 26 per cent of those interviewed were in favour of reducing taxes while 68 per cent thought it was more important to spend more on social services. In 1969, priorities were the same. But last year, 53 per cent opted for lower taxes and

Vietnamese hint of Kampuchea conference

From Jean-Pierre Gallois
of Agence France-Presse
Hanoi, Feb 11

The proposal for an Asian conference on Kampuchea should be given serious consideration, Mr Phan Hien, the Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister said in an interview with Agence France-Presse today.

Mr Hien said: "Contact is always useful, and bilateral contacts are, of course, useful, but other things can also be envisaged."

"Some countries have brought up the possibility of a meeting between countries from the South-East Asian region, including those in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This idea should be seriously considered."

Mr Hien rejected reports suggesting that an armed conflict could break out between Vietnam and Indonesia over the disputed boundary of the continental shelf in the South China Sea affecting the Natuna Islands.

"There is no danger whatever of armed conflict between us and Indonesia, whether in the long or short term," he said.

Mr Hien explained there were differences between Vietnam and Indonesia over demarcation of the continental shelf. Oil-fields had been found off the Natuna Islands and the Indonesian authorities had decided to start prospecting.

"We then recalled our position based on the principle that no exploration must be carried out in disputed areas without the agreement of all sides," Mr Hien said, adding: "But we have never thought of sending this dispute through any way but negotiations."

On relations with China, Mr Hien did not seem to believe a large-scale return to fighting was imminent. "Maybe the Chinese are preparing for it, but their modernization is not finished," he said.

On the suspension of Sino-Vietnamese peace talks after the Chinese statement that Mr Han Nianlong, the Deputy Foreign Minister who heads the Chinese delegation, was "too busy", Mr Hien commented: "In our job what we have to busy ourselves with first of all is foreign affairs, not sight-seeing."

Mr Hien continued: "We are ready for anything, but we mean to show our intention to keep on negotiating. We have a good cause. Time is on our side."

He rejected the suggestion that Vietnam was "unconditionally aligned" behind the Soviet Union. Vietnam's position corresponded to its principles and it was not ashamed of them.

On relations with the capitalist world, Mr Hien distinguished between countries that continued to have normal relations with Vietnam and those that preferred "to shout rather than help us—Britain, Australia, West Germany, the United States and Canada".

Finance expert joins new Thai Cabinet

Bangkok, Feb 11.—General Kriangsak Chomphon, Prime Minister of Thailand, tonight announced a Cabinet reshuffle bringing changes in 24 posts after months of pressure stemming from concern at the Government's handling of the federal system, he adds.

Mr Renée Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, has said that he would prefer his old sporting partner, Mr Trudeau, as Prime Minister "for the sport", and because the referendum issues would then be clearer and this—according to them that the devil they don't want to stop".

The latest opinion poll indicates that 30 per cent of the electorate is still undecided, and that is the magic figure. Mr Pagan is aiming for. Impressive candidates, such as Mr Robert De Castro, the Canadian Minister for Economic Development, have been brought in to stand against the Liberals. Mr De Castro is fighting a Liberal majority, 9,700 votes in his constituency.

Mr Pagan thinks the Conservative government will be made in rural and small-town areas, and he believes that people are less and less convinced that Mr Pierre Trudeau represents their interests.

The diminishing Conservative vote in Quebec is a historical fact. According to a historian Professor Carl Andre Linteau from Montreal University, the phenomenon dates back to the First World War, when the Con-

Green monkey disease in Kenya hospital

From Iain Davis
Nairobi, Feb 11

The Nairobi Hospital, which is privately owned, has been placed in quarantine after the identification of Marburg (green monkey) disease in a patient and in the doctor who treated him.

The disease is rare and is named after the West German town where a number of research workers died after contracting the disease from African monkeys in the 1950s.

It is the first time the disease has been reported in Kenya, although the original Marburg outbreak was traced to the use of monkeys from Uganda. Cases have since been reported from Zaire. The disease, viral in origin, killed about 800 people in Zaire and the Sudan in 1976.

Dissidents freed

Warsaw, Feb 11.—Eleven of the 12 leading members of the dissident Self-Defence Committee, held by police over the weekend, have been freed, a spokesman said.

Iranians' \$3.1m offer for Malibu pier rejected

From Iain Davis
Malibu Beach, Feb 11

A consortium of Iranian businessmen bid \$3.1m (about £1.4m) for California's famous Malibu pier at an auction on Sunday, but the owner of the landmark said he will not sell because the price is too low.

There was a carnival-like atmosphere as 400 people crowded on to the 50-year-old fishing pier for the open air auction.

The assortment of spectators included registered bidders, a sprinkling of celebrities, bathers in bikinis, and fishermen and surfers in black wet suits who abandoned their boards to watch.

The 750ft pier, which has been the picturesquely backdrop in several dozen Hollywood films, together with 160ft of valuable beach front property, was sold after 15 minutes of bidding to Mr Mansour Yamin and his brother Michael Yamin, who said they represented a group of investors.

At first they refused to identify themselves or their group. Later Mr Mansour Yamin reluctantly

admitted he was from Iran and said that he and his brother are both American citizens.

But minutes after the final bid, Mr William Huber, who owns the pier and who, under the terms of the auction, has the right to approve the sale figure, said he was not happy with the winning offer.

"Commercial beach property like this is worth \$10,000 a front-foot," he said, "and at that rate the pier is worth well over \$6m. Their price is inadequate, but I am willing to negotiate."

With the pier comes the lease for Alice's Restaurant, a favourite haunt of celebrities, as well as a valuable beach front property. Mr Huber added that the state of California is once again interested in acquiring the pier.

At the auction run by Mr Michael Stearns, a local estate agent, about \$55m worth of Malibu beach land and homes was up for sale. But despite the large turnout, as they say on the fishing pier, the bidders

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Fashion
by Prudence Glynn

When pearls would be too much

Seventy-six pounds for a cardigan? Scrutinise six pounds? Great heavens, did we not invent the garment, is it not Britain's finest contribution to the history of world fashion, and due at any minute for a grant from the Arts Council as part of our cultural heritage?

Before those readers who can remember that £4 19s 1d was the going rate for that one essential item of the wardrobe, the one thing you needed on breezy holidays in Cumberland or Falmouth (and Florence can be very nippy in the evening) before they get out their knitting needles and stick them into my effigy for daring to raise so ludicrous a subject, here is a breakdown of that figure is arrived at.

First, let me describe the cardigan in question. It is quite enchantingly pretty, it is totally original, it is hand knitted in a sophisticated blend of yarns and it is the work of a young and immensely talented designer, Brigid Foley. Brigid, to my mind, is part of the backbone of our next generation of the textile industry, if indeed we are to have one. Now Brigid is no rat-faced exploiter wielding a stop watch in a sweatshop, she is trying to fulfil her ambition and her training and in doing so give pleasure and jobs to a lot of women.

The wholesale price of this particular garment is £30. Conclude 25 per cent for overheads and 25 per cent for profit on the cost of getting it knitted. A Mohair mix is now £3.68 per ounce. VAT adds £6. The retail markup accounts for the rest, and so it was no surprise to me to read in the splendidly revamped *Fashion Weekly* that retailers are busy trimming their margins to entice sales.

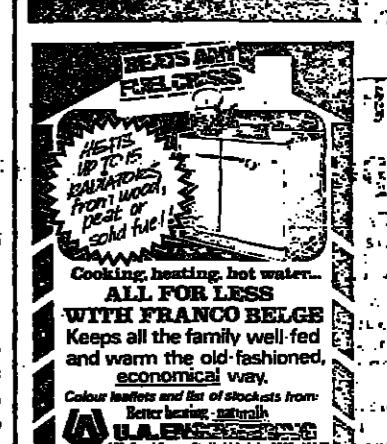
My contribution to high fashion knitwear

at minimum cost you can see on the page today. Two smashing patterns, exclusive to *The Times* readers, designed by Sue Faxall, another very bright young lady. We styled the Big V sweater over nothing more than your collar bones but of course it looks right over a shirt, or for the nouvelle chic over a round necked T shirt—in the same colour. Last week I was talking about camisoles and bridge jackets or boleros, so here you are. A natty little camisole top with spaghetti shoulder straps topped with an amazing sort of opened up tube of knitting which seals your arms and then blossoms into a shrug for the back and shoulders. Do not ask me how it is done. I never got further than knitting the statutory Mission Garment (woolly vests for Africa, as I recall) at school but you all knit, and so does my secretary, who is currently engaged on a complete frock based on the Modrian colour block pattern. Good luck.

Details of The Times exclusive knitting patterns, available through Debenhams. Vinyl belt, £2.99 and jewelry from Debenhams accessories department.

Trousers, £12.95 from Just In at Debenhams. Vinyl belt, £2.99 and jewelry from Debenhams accessories department.

Photographs by Lorenz Zalesky.



Time Britain was taken to the cleaners

Britons, I note, have been designated as a dirty race by a body which you may feel is not entirely a disinterested observer, the Association of British Launderers and Cleaners. In *The Times* of February 1 my colleague Robin Young exposed the grubby fact that half the population have nothing to do with cleaners (jokes about themselves and their shops are strictly out of place in the fashion column) in the past three months. Men, of course, are by far the worst offenders—no, Gallup Poll does not say this, I do. Dirty ties, flecks of long past repeats on the lapels, shiny seats, that awful stale invalid whiff of the tired old suit which should have been recycled months ago.

Americans spend seven times as much as we do on keeping up the clean cut image but then this is not so difficult when Who-Who's Chinese laundry is open all night, the laundries are superb the six hours service (one hour if you are really muscled, honest, I mean it) and the laundry and dry cleaning plant can do you up in eight hours and put the stuff in those lovely old fashioned boxes with tissue paper between the laundry. Normally the Savoy Group's service is 24 hours.

Very sensibly, they are leery of certain exotic gowns which have had gravy dropped on them at a state banquet. A bold patch among the sequins might mean madame would never book the suites again, so they send it off to a specialist.

Being of a nervous disposition I commit my few rags to the coin-op, where at least I know that they will not be boiled alive with a lot of workmen's overalls. Anything liable to stretch or distort I put in a laundry bag with a drawstring neck made of coarse nylon tape. My own experience is that if you get the garments out quickly, while still hot, you seldom have to press them.

But in the main it is Hoover or the hand which retains the niceties of the household. Virtually everything goes into the home wash so let me turn to the vexed question of labelling for cleaning instructions.

They are bizarre. Maybe it is membership of the EEC and a desire for communal communication which has landed us with a plethora of labels on every garment which range from the fierceness, "Monopoly" type—"Do not pass Go, Do not collect £200" through Esperanto to hieroglyphics as mysterious as the Sea Serpent. I suppose that once upon a time one knew what P with a circle around it meant, not car park for example, or that pyramid with a cross across it, or that funny little thing which I have just discovered is an iron (it does not look in the least like mine). I can get the message about the tub with a hand sticking down into it but what about the tub with 50° or whatever written on it. It looks nothing like my washing machine which in any case I never have a ironing board. Neither do I work strictly on the "Owner" principle. If it is too hot for me, then it is too hot for whatever I am washing. That these symbols are farcical is proved by the fact that having bowed to our legislators in including them on the tickets, most manufacturers feel obliged to expand in human terms on just what you are meant to do with their blouse.

Well, I have a message for the laundries and dry-cleaners of this nation. If we are dirty it is because the whole world offers a poor service. I sometimes cannot tell if the dress has been to the cleaners or not—fewer mangled buttons which split just as HE's going to a vital meeting and must be replaced by the plucky little woman over the marmalade, and a far better standard of

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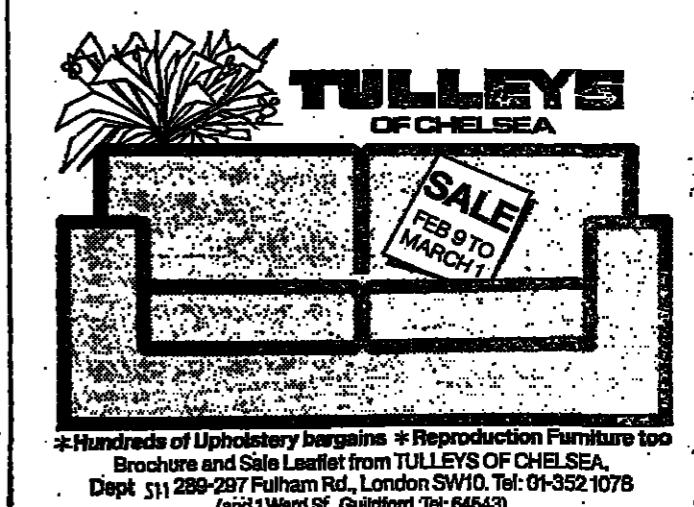
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PARLIAMENT, February 11, 1980

No more Government money to finance BSC pay settlement

House of Commons

Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry (Bosworth, C), in a statement on pay negotiations in the steel industry, stressed the Government's determination not to put more taxpayers' money into BSC to finance a settlement.

He said: "The House will know that following private exchanges between the BSC management and the union leaders, the full negotiating bodies of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and National Union of Blast furnace men met the British Steel Corporation on Friday. It was soon clear in the discussions that the two parties existed, and that there was an important difference between what BSC had offered in the private discussions and what the union side thought had been offered. The union side promptly withdrew from the meeting."

Following this break down, Acas, the independent conciliation service, immediately tried to get in touch with both sides. They had discussions with the BSC on Friday afternoon and again this morning. I am told that the ISTC and NUB have not yet been able to give a positive response to Acas's invitation for an early meeting.

On Sunday, negotiators from the BSC and the craft and general unions met and agreed a formula which could be recommended for acceptance. The formula provides for a 10 per cent pay increase in respect of a central agreement with provisions for improved productivity, plus 4 per cent increase in local negotiated productivity schemes. The 4 per cent is a minimum and there is every opportunity to earn more from local productivity schemes.

The BSC's negotiations with the ISTC and NUB broke down because of failure to agree on the all-important question of productiv-

ity improvements. The Government has made it clear from the beginning, and I repeat it again today, that we are not prepared to put more taxpayers' money into the steel industry.

Therefore, the money has to come from BSC's own resources. It is there to be earned; and productivity improvements are essential if BSC is to compete and survive.

This strike is in its sixth week and has already cost the average BSC worker about £650 in gross pay.

Unless a settlement is found soon there will be permanent loss of jobs and permanent damage to our steel industry; and—without doubt—the risk extends to so many other jobs in the rest of British industry.

We are involved to the extent of £450m and as custodians of the taxpayers' money we have made it clear that we do not intend to put any further cash behind the industry.

Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab)—Leaving aside the general damage to the industry, what effect has the cost of this dispute so far had on the Government's economic policy?

Mr Butler—There is plenty of evidence to show that the cost of the dispute is of the order of £100 a week. Happily production generally throughout the country is still only slightly affected.

If there is no more money forthcoming from the Government the next conclusion has to be any other private sector company would and the money from within its own resources. There are a number of ways in which it can do that.

Mr Kenneth Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone, C)—The 14 per cent settlement by the craftsmen and the rest of the private steel workers today means that the Government has no intention of setting up another inquiry into the steel industry?

Mr Butler—The industry was not told that all the parties concerned will display a real sense of urgency in trying to reach a settlement which this situation demands.

Mr John Silkin—We were warning well before Christmas of the effect of this dispute.

The Government has shown great complacency, the Prime Minister has referred to the dispute as the beginning? We were warning well before Christmas of the effect of this dispute.

Mr Butler—The estimate of the steel corporation's costs of the dispute so far is £100 a week.

Mr John Silkin—That is the Government's estimate.

Every person in this country, the

resumed and it is up to Mr Sirs and Mr Smith to return to the negotiating table now.

Mr Butler—Mr Baker is right to draw the attention of the House to the example of the craft and general workers. In reaching this settlement, which is substantially self-financing, they took into account the position of the industry.

(Cheers.) The industry was thoroughly investigated by a Commons select committee recently and such an inquiry would merely delay the taking of vital decisions.

Mr Butler—Certainly the Government agrees with him. This is not the time for a court of inquiry—it is the time for a settlement of the dispute. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab)—What has BSC done in its constituency?

Mr Butler—What has BSC done in its constituency?

Mr Sirs (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab)—

Mr Butler—What has BSC done in its constituency?

Mr Michael Grylls (North-West Surrey, C)—Would the minister make it plain to the unions that when they talk of new money that only places new money can come from the taxpayers paying still more money or improved productivity? That is the key.

Mr Butler—There is plenty of money in improving productivity.

Mr Michael Grylls—The money can be earned from that increased productivity and the significance of getting improvement in productivity is that the industry will move towards a competitive state. Without productivity it does not have a future.

Mr Butler—There is considerable merit in decentralization and local bargaining. One of the features of the agreement now reached with the craft and general unions is that they should prove important of it will help for the future.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (East Thanet, C)—Steel workers would be getting increases of about £14 a week if it was accepted. Most workers in this country would regard that as a generous increase, particularly if they are working for an industry which is effectively bankrupt.

Mr Butler—Even the first offer of BSC would have given £12 to £13 a week to steel workers, which is at least one billion pounds out in its estimate in any one year. If the cost of settling this strike was to pay another £20m it would not matter a tuppenny damn.

Mr Butler—If we were to take his line it would be real money from the taxpayer. It is because of this imprudent attitude that we are here trying to try to recover the economic position from the mess we found it in.

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Bernard Levin

Labour: the quick and the dead

The apple, it is said, does not fall far from the tree. A good deal of well-bred surprise is being expressed at the portrait of Mr Callaghan that is emerging from the *Diaries* of Lady Castle (themselves even more relentlessly and comically self-justifying than those of Richard Crossman), at any rate in the excerpts serialized in *The Sunday Times*. The portrait in question is of a man whose instinctive and invariable response to a political crisis, or even problem, is to run away, pausing only to betray those of his colleagues who prefer not to. I have discussed Mr Callaghan's almost uniquely shabby political career too recently to want to go over it again in detail, and in any case Lady Castle, as a witness to any political matter in which she has an interest, strikes me as hardly more reliable than the *splendide époque*, Sir Harold Wilson, himself. But it was a little-noticed remark at Question Time the other day that brings me back to Mr Callaghan, not in an approach *ad hominem*, but in a context that calls for consideration of the present role of the Opposition in general.

The subject was trade union law, and Mr Callaghan was questioning the Prime Minister. In doing so, he made clear what his view was of the problems posed by the present extended union immunity from any legal consequences of their or their members' actions. He urged the Government to drop its plans for legislation altogether, and instead to "call

in the TUC" to get "a voluntary agreement" on such matters as secondary picketing.

There was, of course, a sound of approval, somewhere between a murmur and a roar—say a groan—from Mr Callaghan's back benches. It was, after all, to elicit that response that the remark was made; Mr Callaghan's beleaguered condition (it seems quite possible that he is literally the only member of the parliamentary party who wants him to remain leader) is such that he must from time to time try to attract genuine support, as there is a limit to what even he can do in the way of shrugging up his position by shuffling, gerrymandering, and hiding from trouble.

All the same, there it was: the only proposal for trade union reform that the Leader of the Opposition thinks fit to put forward is to dig the rotting corpse of Solomon Binding out of its grave and give it the kiss of life. I suppose we should not be surprised when the politically moribund advocate political necrophilia, but the episode does, as I have suggested, throw some light upon the attitude of the Opposition to the present industrial and trade union crisis—an attitude which, to some extent at any rate, must be reflected in the position of its leader.

There are a number of possible courses of action that a future Labour Government might adopt for dealing with trade union power. One way can be called for convenience the Michael Foot version—is to hand the government of the

country over to the union leaders, after making sure with legislation that resistance to such a government is impossible. Another would be to do something along the lines of the previous Labour attempt in the form of *In Place of Strife*. Another would be to do a deal with the union barons; secure their consent to some elementary legislation on, say, picketing by paying them off with an extension of their power to run the country's industry. Another would be disestablishment; to break the link between the Labour Party and the unions and go for genuine political independence.

And so on. But the only suggestion of what might be done that has actually been made is Mr Callaghan's proposal that there should be a *verbal* commitment by the trade unions to the government, coupled with a *real* commitment (that is, to drop the legislation altogether) the other way round. It will hardly be supposed that a Labour government would take a more positive line than a Labour opposition recommends to a Conservative government, and we may therefore conclude that that would indeed be Labour policy next time as it was last: to pretend to believe assurances which are not true, and which would be unenforceable even if they were.

The truth is that the Parliamentary Labour Party, front benches as well as back, and right as well as left, is no longer willing to do anything that is needed to help the country if what is needed will not help the

party. From the Benns and the Foos, the Hattersleys and Owens, the Heeleys and the Callaghans, I would expect nothing else; indeed, I am not even surprised by the extent to which some Labour members have offered support to those Labour local authorities who have indicated, and in some cases proudly proclaimed, that they intend to defy the law. But once—and it is not necessary to go back as far as Grattisell, let alone Arlee, to find the evidence—there would have been a vigorous, powerfully supported, persistent and vocal element in the Labour party making contrary views heard.

Let us leave our questions of right and wrong, partisanship and the lack of it. Let us talk solely in terms of political self-interest. In the first 1974 election, Mr Callaghan was urging on the miners to insist on their pay claim and promising them that if they stood firm until Labour got back in office they would get in met at full. Had Labour been in office during the miners' strike of that year, Mr Callaghan would have been a member—a loyal and politically self-sacrificing member, no doubt, but a member—of a government resisting the claim in question. Did it do the cause of Labour any good in the long run, that political announcement that any sufficiently powerful union could demand what terms it liked? To be sure, it helped to make Mr Callaghan leader, and thus Prime Minister, but did the excesses of union power unleashed in the "winter of discontent" not contribute, perhaps overwhelmingly, to last

year's Tory election victory? It is a truth far deeper and far wider than any question of trade unions and their place in our society that those who are given power will use it. The Labour Party, last time it was in Opposition, encouraged the trade union movement to demand power; when the Opposition became government, it was obliged to meet that demand; heaped up, pressed down and running over. Did the fulfilling of the demand lessen, or increase, the further demands that were immediately made, and were fulfilled in turn? And now there are still further demands, which a Labour government will, if the Labour Opposition continues on its present course, be obliged to meet in turn, with the same consequences. They know—even Mr Callaghan knows—what the consequences will ultimately be, and they know that they, too, will go down in the ruin attendant upon those consequences. But the lust for immediate political power is such that it anaesthetizes the consciousness of that knowledge, and persuades a once honourable party, once led by honourable men, that it is right to deal the country what may—what, if it is not partied, will—be a fatal blow, if doing so will make their own return to office more likely or more rapid. It is not only Solomon, Binding's body that lies a-mouldering in the grave. It is also the Labour Party's soul.

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Why cracks are widening in eastern Europe

After 35 years in power, east European parties have run out of steam... they have been left in a state of ideological semi-nudity.

parties are left with much more vulnerable justifications for their political monopoly. These may be reduced to nationalism, i.e. that the party rules in the name of the nation and rationality, that the party rules because it alone is best fitted to exercise the role of the most rational arbiter and policy maker in society...

The party's attempts to use nationalism have major pitfalls, most vitally that communist parties are seen as alien, anti-national agencies of Soviet power. Hence they cannot push too far their identification of nationhood and the rule of the party. The Romanian party, which has gone furthest in this direction, has certainly found popular support through nationalism, but its anti-Soviet policies have constrained it to pursue strict centralism and anti-liberalism, so that even in the field of consumption, Romania has been lagging behind the rest of eastern Europe.

Similarly the claim to supreme rationality is undermined by the contrast between the party's rhetoric and everyday experience. The flourishing secondary economy, the scarcities, the burgeoning corruption, the blatant self-service of the bureaucracy, the arbitrariness of the legal institutions and the police are the growing social inequality all tell the same story of the failure of the rationality promoted by the party.

The ending of social mobility is only the most vivid example of this. Communist parties are ostensibly committed to social equality and to advancing the interests of the proletariat. In their first decade of rule, the parties did in fact effect a great social transformation, as they promoted a new generation of communist intellectuals, office-holders and managers. But, as Dr Walter Connor demonstrates in his book *Socialism, Politics and Equality* (Columbia University Press), since then eastern Europe has become so rigidly stratified that the chances of someone from the peasantry or the working class moving into the intelligentsia are virtually nil.

What makes this worse is that the new middle strata have largely adopted the values and ways of the pre-war élite and cling tenaciously to their privileges. To cap this, under communism, there is only one avenue of upward mobility—education—and that is rigidly controlled by the new class.

Before the communist takeover, there was some chance of self-advancement through private enterprise, but that avenue has been closed. The social rigidity is also a source of weakness, because it is likely to modify the shape and the content of politics. In the 1950s, parties bought themselves domestic stability by granting the middle strata access to money, privileges and a little power. This was a relatively inexpensive operation because it involved few people. But the 1980s may well see the emergence of a second generation working class that will not take consumption alone as its sole aim in society. This generation will slowly come to demand greater political control over its existence and that is rigidly controlled by the new class.

Stagnation and fear of change became the hallmarks of east European politics in the 1970s. The communist parties themselves illustrated the trend all too clearly. While they have retained the rhetoric of revolutionary transformation and the class struggle, they adhere as far as they can to a practice of less than the minimum of political change.

This inability to undertake political renewal is not only startling in terms of Marxist-Leninist rhetoric. It also points to a far more serious failure on the part of the communists. After 35 years in power, east European communist parties have run out of steam. They have presided over a dash for modernity and have successfully begun the process of transforming traditional societies. But they have been unable to go beyond this.

Their great historical achievement has been to create conditions in which the bulk of the population, above starvation level. Otherwise, their only real success has been to hold on to power despite their unpopularity. In all other respects, communist parties can be fairly judged as politically and intellectually bankrupt, as rather corrupt bureaucracies holding on to power.

The process of the decline of Marxism-Leninism has left the east European parties in a state of ideological semi-nudity. As no one takes claims to be ruling in the name of the "revolution" or the "class struggle" very seriously, the

at the window in vain for a sight of men coming out with rolled up sections of plastic turf to lay in the street. Perhaps the Lord's Taverners, whose name also appears on the side of the bus, can enlighten me as to what it is and what it is doing in N.I.

Happy hearts
So far this diary has been rather heavily political and historical. For my last story I am delighted to offer something romantic and forward-looking (well, at least as far as Thursdays are concerned).

Absence certainly seems to have made the heart grow fonder in the case of those you who were deprived of our St. Valentine's Day service last year. This year some 2,000 lucky people will receive a book of love poems and a letter telling them that there is a message for them in *The Times*.

They may have a long search. The Valentines will occupy 28 columns of the paper. Brian Wernham of our classified advertising department says he has been staggered by the number of Valentines booked this year—the previous record was only 822. Apparently some of you have been paying up to £100 to have as many as six different Valentines inserted. Never let it be said again that *Times* readers are only interested in obituaries and crosswords.

Ian Bradley

The balance between individual and state

Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal (pictured right), delivered a speech in Cambridge last Thursday simply entitled *Conservatism*. It was in fact a powerful argument against the Government's economic policy, and we publish here an extended extract as a contribution to the growing debate in and outside the Cabinet.

There is, or should be, no Conservative hostility to the state. There is no Conservative dogma about the state and the individual. Conservatives do not see these as mutually antagonistic entities, but as mutually dependant and mutually sustaining entities.

Conservative political thought is wholly opposed to the so-called night-watchman state. Conservatives believe it to be impossible as well as undesirable. It is impossible because such a state would not survive except as an authoritarian or totalitarian regime.

A free state will not survive unless its people feel loyalty to it. And they will not feel loyalty unless they gain from the state protection and other benefits.

Lectures on the ultimate benefits of competition and on the dangers of interfering with market forces will not satisfy people who are in trouble. If the state is not interested in them, why should they be interested in the state?

In the Conservative view, therefore, economic liberalism, à la Professor Hayek, because of its starkness and its failure to create a sense of community, is not a safeguard of political freedom but a threat to it. And Conservatives believe the night-watchman state is undesirable because they know that there are certain things that only governments can do.

In 1857 President Cleveland vetoed a Bill to send \$10,000 to

victims of drought, saying: "Federal aid in such cases... weakens the sturdiness of our national character." That was liberal dogma at its worst.

Conservatives, on the contrary, believe with Burke that government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants." Only liberal ideologues, or Conservatives, are fundamentally opposed to the welfare state.

Indeed the welfare state is a thoroughly conservative institution—which is why Conservatives did so much to bring it into existence—and its roots go deep into British history.

Certainly for Conservatives the family comes before the state as the primary social unit.

Families and individuals should as far as possible be encouraged and helped to look after themselves.

Yet, it is obvious that there are many families and individuals who find it difficult or impossible to look after themselves. I represent a relatively prosperous constituency, but even in Chesham and Amersham there are many people who undoubtedly need help from the state or from local government.

What the proportion of state help should be, and how much money should be spent on the social services is a matter of judgment. For myself, I think there is no doubt that the balance when we came into office had to be redressed at least because we simply could

not afford to go on as we were. But gradual change is always preferable to violent change, for electoral reasons among others, and people need to be convinced that they will be better off, not worse off, as a result of periods of Conservative government. We have to carry the country with us.

It would be foolish to forget this, to think that we can ignore the social and political consequences of what we do. Of course, the world economic crisis, the need to reverse years of relative decline, labour's economic legacy and Russia's growing strength will make it difficult to meet people's expectations and ambitions in the next few years. But the size of our task suggests that we should be even more mindful than usual of political considerations.

We must not make the same mistake as Marx and give economic primacy over political ones.

There are of course a few basic rules. First, there is a limit to how much change the public can accept and understand, especially if it is forced through at too fast a pace. Second, it would be difficult to retain a bare minimum of public sympathy and support during the painful period of adjustment through which our economy must pass if there was a sharp decline in ordinary people's living standards. Third, we must spell out time and again the purpose of our programme, for example of the spending cuts we have been obliged to make.

We want to see more nursery schools and hospitals and better care for the needy, but we will not be able to afford them unless we have made the sort of

shift in the economy about which Bacon and Eltis wrote so convincingly a few years ago.

Fourth, as unemployment rises rapidly this year, we will have to demonstrate not only concern for the social implications but also imagination about the reform of the labour market and of pay bargaining which would help to create jobs rather than destroy them.

The justification of state help and welfare is that it enlarges freedom by diminishing poverty and by increasing security. The welfare state is therefore an essential ingredient in the political community. But the extent to which help is provided by way of subsidies or by insurance or by voluntary bodies is by self-help as a result of lower taxation and a more successful economy and the extent to which social services are financed by taxation or charges, do not seem to me to be matters of fundamental principle.

The right conservative attitude to state interference in the economy is to my mind similar to the attitude to the welfare state I have just outlined.

A mixed or free economy is a necessary condition of freedom. If all economic power is in the hands of the state, all political power will be in the hands of the state, and inevitably there will be tyranny. That seems to me both theoretically impracticable and empirically true.

Conservatives therefore favour a free or mixed economy. And indeed some of the Labour Party's only a free economy, and are convinced that a mixed economy can not work and will lead to socialism and tyranny. Here I think they have fallen for the blandishments of Liberal ideologues like von Mises and Professor Hayek...

If the people will not accept capitalism as such, it will do little good to tell them nothing else is compatible with democracy. Those who believe otherwise have fallen into the trap of ideology and dogma—which is or should be to Conservatives the unparable sin.

Nevertheless, by pruning government intervention and by reducing the powers of the bureaucracy, we shall not only help the economy we shall be building up the authority of government—since it is partly because of excessive state interference that the authority of government has been undermined. And since Conservatives believe in the rule of law, we shall not only help the economy we shall be strengthening their relationship with the population. The institutions that do exist—trade unions, the press, parliaments, local government and the youth movements—are largely facades. Their operations are controlled by the Communist Party and they are generally regarded as manipulated.

The last attempt to transform the political system and to provide for political participation was the ill-fated Czechoslovak reform programme of 1968. Since then communist parties have been obliged to maintain a strategy defined as "leading by rule"—political monopoly—something to which they do not object in principle. They know that if they do, the Brezhnev doctrine would act as a deterrent.

Instead of political reform

encouraged by the Soviet Union

to choose another path. This

was the concept launched in the early 1970s. It consisted of avoiding any serious reform which might involve decentralization or participation and it tried to secure popular acquiescence in official policies through consumer satisfaction.

LONDON DIARY

The Gladstone factor

Have you noticed the extraordinary fascination that Mr Gladstone seems to hold for modern politicians in all three parties?

In the past few weeks alone Mr John Biffen has told Conservatives that the Government is engaged in a "crusade for Gladstonean freedom", Mr David Steel has quoted the Grand Old Man's words about the negotiation of God being erected into a system of government at a Liberal gathering in Bromley (I hasten to say that he was applying the remarks to Russia and not to Britain under Mrs Thatcher), and Mr Roy Hattersley has been talking of his admiration for the Victorian Liberal Premier in the BBC Radio 4 programme *Talking Politics*.

Mr Hattersley is probably the most Gladstonean obsessed of all our contemporary politicians. Since losing his ministerial office at the last election, he has been doing the round of London publishers offering them a book of conversations between himself and the Grand Old Man. To this, I understand no one has taken up the idea.

It is interesting to speculate how the object of all this attention would himself behave if he returned to the political stage in 1980. He would certainly find one of the current issues very familiar. It is only just over a hundred years ago that he made his famous entreaty

to the voters of Midlothian: "Remember that the sanctity of life in the hill villages of Afghanistan among the winter snows is as inviolable as God can be your own." The only difference was that then it was the British rather than the Russians who were the unwelcome guests in that unfortunate land.

Certain aspects of Mrs Thatcher's Government would gladden Gladstone's heart. There is no doubt of its commitment to at least one element of his three-cornered policy of "Peace, Reformation and Reform", although I suspect that he would not rate its attachment to the other two so highly. Some of Mrs Thatcher's henchmen would also strike a familiar chord—particularly of Dr Rhodes Boyson, who with his mutton-chop whiskers, his gold watch chain and his Lancashire accent is the very model of Victorian Liberal MP. Indeed, in the House of Commons last month, he was described by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour education spokesman, in precisely those terms as "a 100 per cent, 22 carat, late nineteenth century reactionary Liberal".

I doubt, however, if Gladstone would ultimately plump for the Conservative Party. He would probably find his true political heirs among the members of a rather splendid organization calling itself the Gladstone Club which meets every month in the National Liberal Club.

If we cut their social security they wouldn't be able to afford them...

According to Mr Bradshaw, however, the inhabitants of Tamworth have much reason to be grateful to Peel. He brought to the town the techniques of the cotton industry of his native Lancashire, where his father had become a millionaire. As a result of his industrial innovations and of the consequences of his abolition of the corn laws, Peel brought tremendous prosperity to the area. He also put Tamworth on the map as being MP throughout his time as Prime Minister, and delivering his famous Tamworth Manifesto of moderate and progressive Toryism from the steps of the town hall where his statue now stands.

The Peel Society is setting up a museum in Tamworth Castle which will include exhibits on the Peel family, who continued living in the area until the 1920s, and on the early days of the police. All five living ex-Prime Ministers are being invited to become patrons of the society and Mr Bradshaw, who is the acting secretary, hopes that one of them will formally open the museum at the society's inaugural banquet on October 8.

I have heard of mobile libraries and mobile fish and chip shops, but I confess to being rather mystified about the contents of a minibus which has recently been parked outside my north London flat. According to the legend on the side it is a mobile pizzeria.

So far I have stood

at the window in vain for a sight of men coming out with rolled up sections of plastic turf to

Built ahead of deadline, below budget

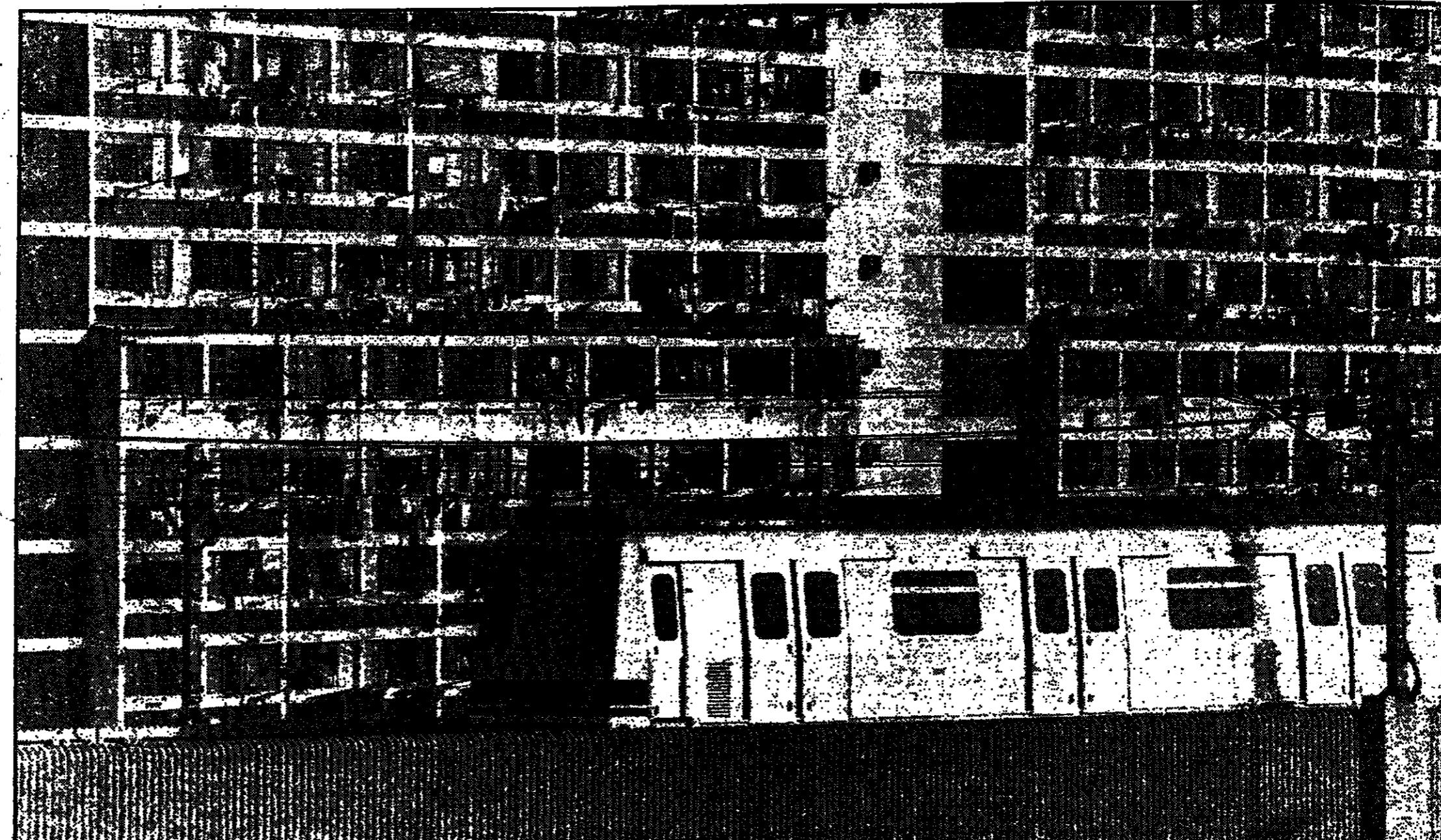
"Weight of numbers and the special demands of Hongkong's population not only dictated the need for the metro; they also ensure that it will be profitable." In the first of five articles on the building and financing of the metro, Trevor Fishlock traces its development from the initial survey in 1967 and looks ahead to the time when it could be the world's most heavily used underground system.

Hongkong's metro, the Mass link between Hongkong Island and Kowloon, has doubt one of the great civil engineering ventures of the century. It makes an important contribution to the relief of a formidable transport problem. Its construction has been characterized by ingenuity, skilled financing, determination and shrewd, firm management.

Given the spirit in which it was initiated and carried through, it is no surprise that, as was promised when work started four years and four months ago, the project is ready ahead of deadline and under budget.

It may be no surprise—but it is none the less remarkable that the MTR has been completed within the cash and calendar limits.

The task has not been an easy one. There have been considerable geological and technical difficulties, setbacks and changing financial fortunes. And Hongkong's people have suffered much disruption—noise, dust and the loss of homes and offices—as the metro



There are more than five million people crowded into the twin cities of Hongkong Island and Kowloon, and in an equally packed and bustling Kowloon across Victoria Harbour. The packed buses, trams, light buses, taxis and ferries carry more than 6,300,000 people a day. Hongkong has one of the highest traffic densities in the world, more than 210 vehicles for each kilometre of road. The cross-harbour tunnel between Hongkong and Kowloon, opened in 1972, now carries an average 85,000 vehicles a day.

In recent years the Government has built many new highways, flyovers and ground (to make a comparison) the greatest number of passengers passing over one track in one hour is about 28,000. Hongkong's

MTR is designed for eight-car trains, each carrying up to 3,000 people when full, running at two-minute intervals in peak times. There will be an average rush hour capacity of more than 60,000 people passing over any given point in an hour. By the mid-1980s the MTR is expected to be carrying 18 million people a day. And the extension now being built out to Tsuen Wan will

add a further 800,000, making the MTR the world's most heavily-used metro.

London's Underground carries 1,500,000 people a day,

though it has 15 times more track than Hongkong's MTR.

Most of Hongkong's people live and work within an urban area of 40 square miles. In this concentrated district, in spite of all houses and half of all work places are within a 10-minute walk of an MTR station. Being a short system operating in such a densely-packed area, the MTR is well on the way to being profitable. And there is another factor which clinches it: the travel pattern and way of life in

Hongkong is fully automated. Fares range from \$HK1 to \$HK3, a dollar being about 10 pence, and tickets are issued by machines and inserted into the kind of turnstile with which Underground users are familiar.

The air-conditioned aluminium coaches, built by Metro-Cammell of Birmingham, have a spartan and practical appearance. Each coach can accommodate 327 standing passengers and only 48 sitting—on stainless steel benches. The coaches are not separate units. There is no division between each one, so that a train is one long tube. Trains are made up of four coaches at present, but will be twice the length by the mid-1980s.

The stations are not only bilingually labelled but also have different and distinctive colour schemes to aid identification. Choi Hung, which means rainbow, has a rainbow colour scheme, and Diamond Hill has glittering columns.

Work started on the MTR in November, 1975, within months of the crisis caused by withdrawal of a Japanese consortium which had originally agreed to build the railway. When the Japanese pulled out, the plans were swiftly revised (this sort of rapid adjustment to circumstances has been a characteristic of the project's management) and work started on a rather more modest metro, a roughly S-shaped line from Chater, on Hongkong Island, through a harbour tunnel, and through the heavily built-up areas of Kowloon.

The railway has 15 stations, from Chater on the island, to Kwun Tong on the mainland. Twelve are underground. And all of them are large, shiny, tiled, bright and uncluttered. Their size is dictated by safety, comfort and security considerations; and the people of Hongkong, having heard horror stories about New York's subway, insisted on well-lit and unobstructed concourses with no shadows or crannies for muggers to hide in.

This is what the planners call the modified initial system. It is costing about £540m, the money being raised on the open market, through overseas and local

loans, and through export at the northern end of Nathan Road, was opened on the last day of September last year by Sir Murray MacLehose, the Governor of Hongkong.

Next day, when regular services started, 250,000 people rode the metro; and since then passenger traffic and revenue have been above expectation.

The opening of the complete modified initial system by Princess Alexandra today marks not only a completion but a beginning. Work on the Tsuen Wan extension proceeds steadily, and decisions on further extensions are being considered. One

of two lines recommended by consultants would run from Chai Wan to Kennedy Town on Hongkong island's northern shore. The other would run from Western Market and under the harbour to Tsim Sha Tsui, eventually being pushed past the airport at Kai Tak and on to Diamond Hill.

From here it would be possible to build a line north to Sha Tin.

Meanwhile, the Hongkong Government and the MTR Corporation are considering the re-building of Hongkong's picturesque, hilly, patrolled-and-boasted tramway system. The key to the successful and punctual completion of the MTR clearly lie in the skill of the management, quick-reactions to unexpected hold-ups and highly professional financing. The MTR Corporation soon established a reputation for toughness among the contractors. One contractor's executive commented: "We had some heavy sessions with the MTR management when we fell behind. But I admire their bargaining ability. They didn't give away a cent."

The first part of the metro, from the industrial area of Kwun Tong, in east Kowloon, to Shek Kip Mei

Many new underground systems planned throughout the world

continued from previous page

The period of reappraisal was helpful in that it focused attention on much cheaper commuter railway and tramway solutions. Germany offers some successful examples of both techniques. But in the cities with multi-million populations, it is once again accepted that a metro is worth every penny of the cost.

There is no mystery here. The factors which make metros indispensable

apply with equal force to London, Paris and Moscow. The period of reappraisal has shown more than once that he expects to have two lines operating with no crew on the trains within 20 years. Indeed, such a system would be running in Lille by 1982.

There will always have to be staff around to deal with emergencies, but unmanned trains offer one outstanding advantage: peak-hour service can be maintained through evenings and Sun-

days. With no drivers to pay, demand fluctuations can be met by reducing the length of trains instead of their frequency.

More than anything else, though, this boost to reliability would enable public transport to compete with the car on equal terms and thus keep subsidies within bounds.

Meanwhile, cities the world over will be watching Hongkong to see if the miracle of a profitable metro really is possible in the 1980s.

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Norman Thompson: 'I like to lead'

A modern-day eminent Victorian

Norman Thompson would doubt have made director of the Cunard Group. In Hongkong briefly in 1974 his wife saw the top job of the MTR Corporation advertised in a newspaper and persuaded him to apply for it. Not that he needed much urging. As he said: "What man with my experience and love of a challenge would turn down the chance of starting this from scratch? It's a huge project and we all knew we had to get it right. There could be only one outcome: success."

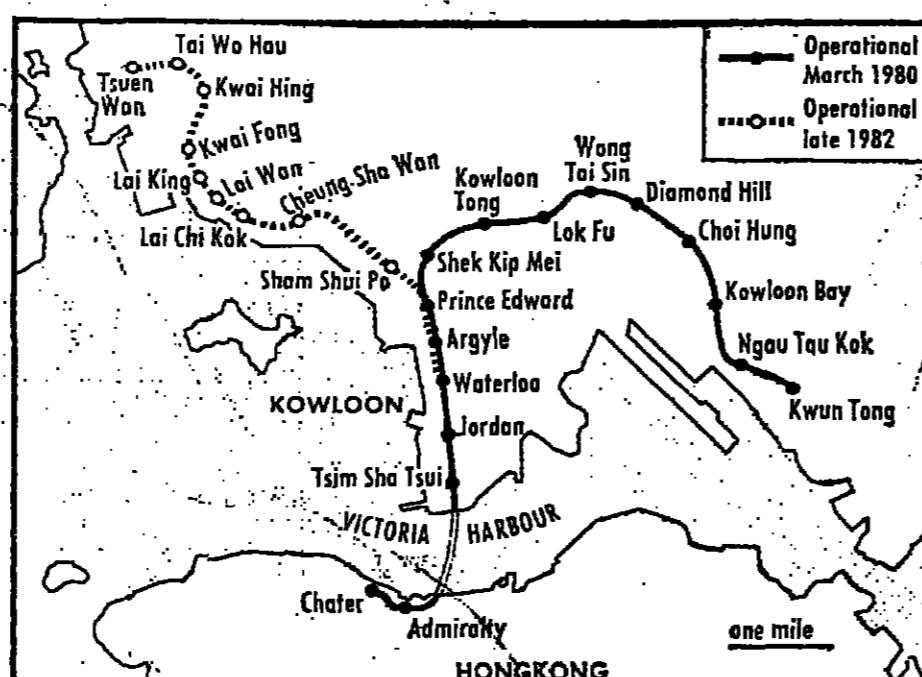
"Yes", he said, in an interview in his Kowloon office. "I'm sure I would have enjoyed life in those days. I like to lead and I like to get on top of a job, however difficult, and see it through. I like to feel I'm a part of progress, a creative businessman."

He is manifestly a natural boss. Those who know him and have worked with him remark on his flair, firmness and confidence. He is known as a man who gets what he wants, as a driver of hard bargains. "A tough nut—but fair", a businessman said. "He gets respect because he's a professional. But he is flexible and pragmatic. And he could not do what he does if he were unreasonable."

After many years of management challenges, Norman Thompson has spent more than four years in one of Asia's most challenging jobs—chairmanship of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation.

He was born in Middlesbrough in 1920, and trained as an accountant before and after the war, which he spent in the Merchant Navy as deck-hand, machine-gunner and radio officer. He started his business career in the textile industry and moved into engineering, building a reputation as a solver of managerial and industrial problems.

In the early 1960s he went off to manage Malta Drydocks and wiped out its losses. He became overseas director of Swan Hunter in 1967 and managed the Kepel dockyard in Singapore. After a spell as deputy managing director at Swan Hunter he became managing director of Cunard's cargo business; and when Cunard was taken over by Trafalgar House he became managing director of the venture



In his view a small company, run with limited delegation, is bound to be more efficient than a larger one. Decentralization should take place only in large companies, he says, and managers of each part of the group should be made completely responsible for profits.

But the style of management is only part of the story, he said. Although planning, willingness and ability to change plans, rough bargaining and rigorous vetting of tenders have been important, the MTR Corporation's status—a government-owned body ordered to do a commercial job—has also been vital.

"At the beginning the

seemed massive and daunting to many people", he said. "We had to succeed of Hongkong's people is and we needed a privileged status to help us. The Government had to give us priority to enable us to tackle the problems swiftly. The planning considerations had to be taken care of so that we could forge ahead. There was an arrangement between the director of public works and myself: we knew there could be no hold-ups."

Mr Thompson's view of the

disruption the building of the MTR caused in the lives of Hongkong's people is that it was inevitable—and that it lasted not a day longer than necessary. "The Government kept in touch with the people on this", he said. "Of course there was bound to be some pain. But the compensation schemes have been fair and well-handled."

He regards the MTR job as one of the most satisfying of his career. He in-

volves and believes they can better themselves."

tends to stay until the Tsuen Wan extension is completed in 1982, and hopes for a fresh challenge after that.

About his reputation as a hard bargainer he said: "We have a difficult job to do—a railway to build. Contractors are a very tough crowd. And to succeed in business you must not let anyone hoodwink you. We have had our rugged times, but we have always been fair. And I think it significant that most of the contractors who worked on the first part of the MTR applied for jobs on the extension."

Most businessmen would enjoy a few years in Hongkong, Mr Thompson says. "It is a vital and hard-working place where you can get back to the roots and know that capitalism works. It is a really refreshing place for the man who wants to get on with the job."

"There are no trivial shop-floor difficulties—but then I believe that in places where you do have shop-floor problems more than half the trouble is caused by management. One of the best aspects of Hongkong is that people believe in themselves and believe they can

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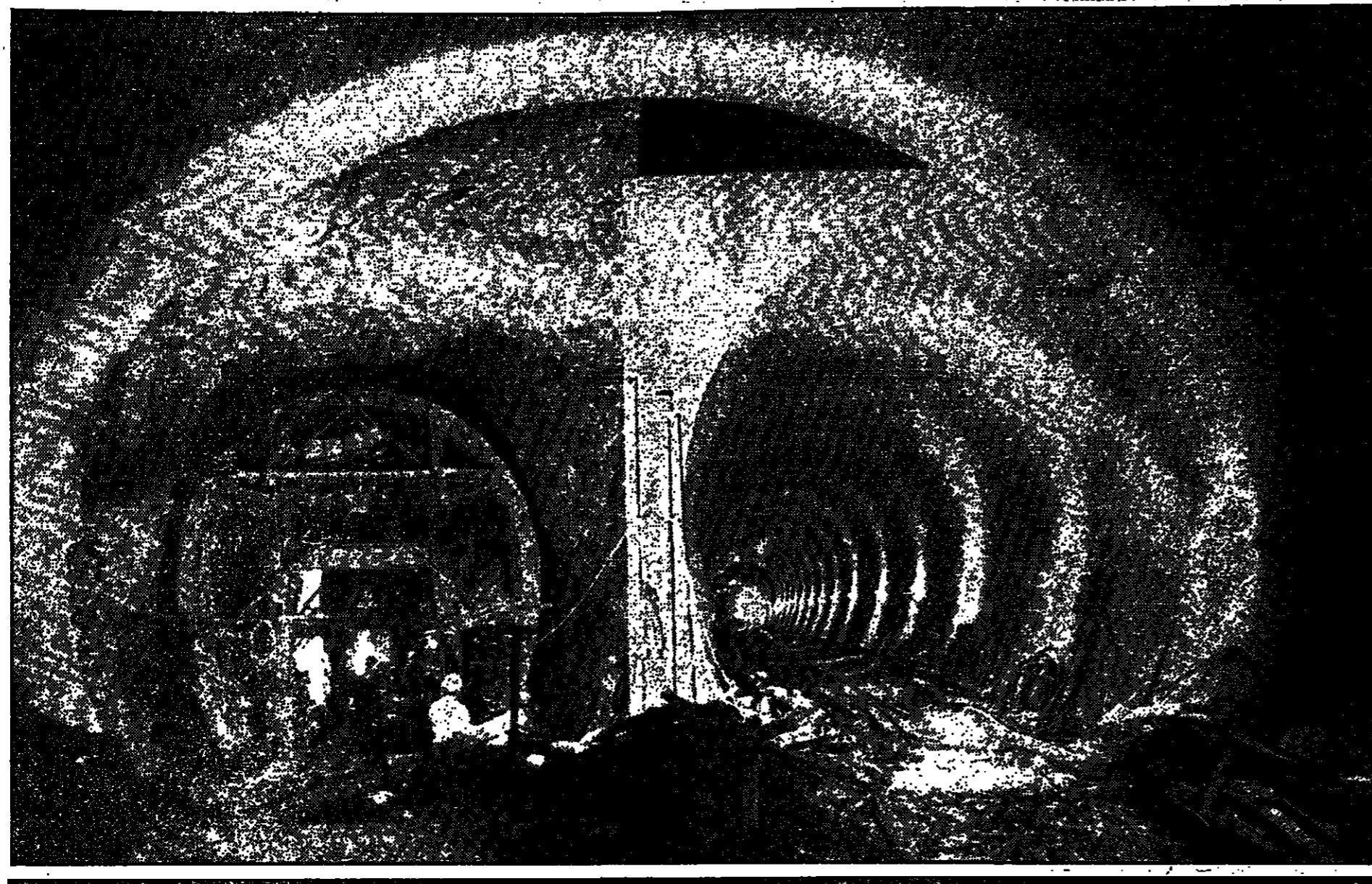
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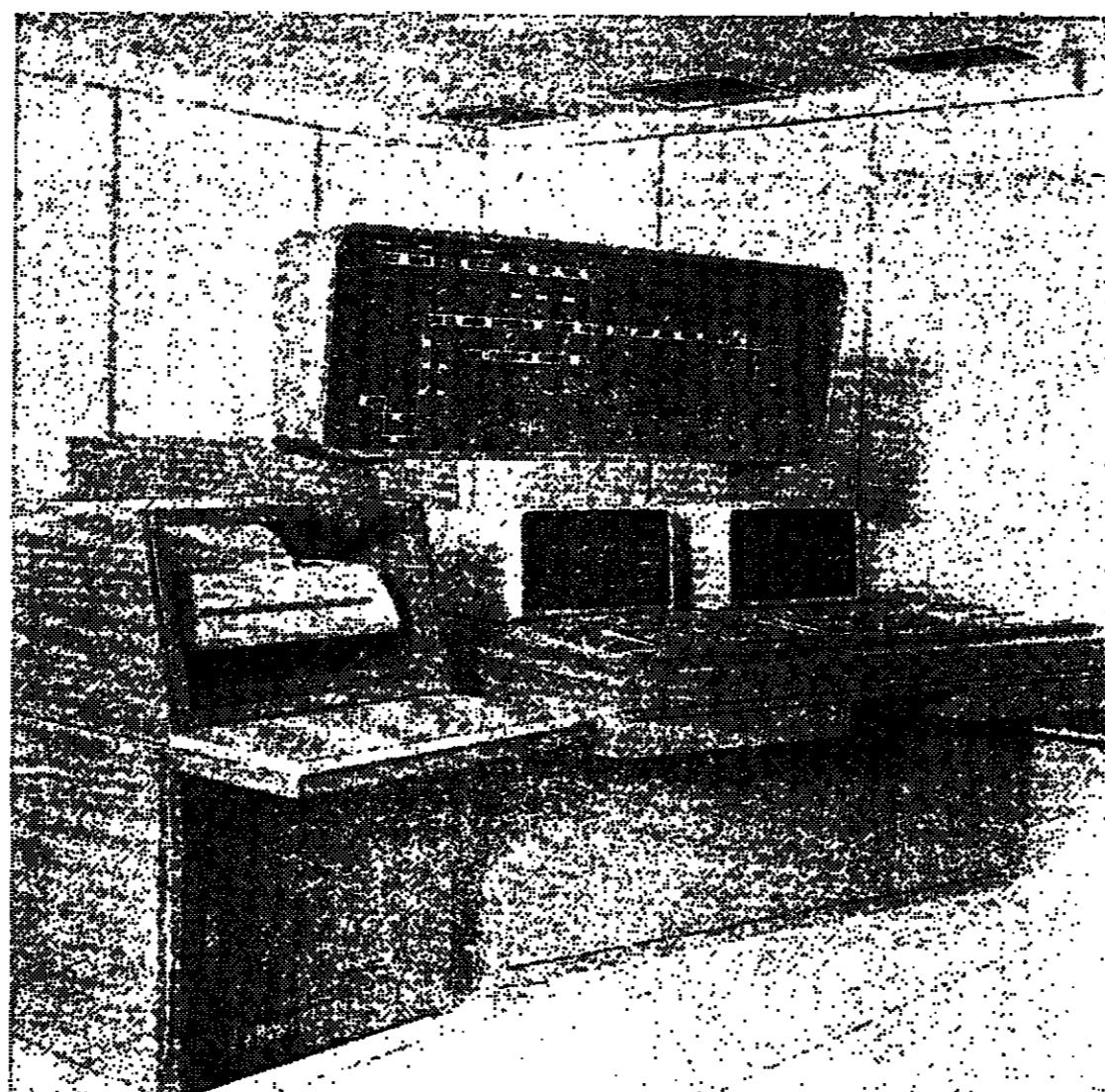
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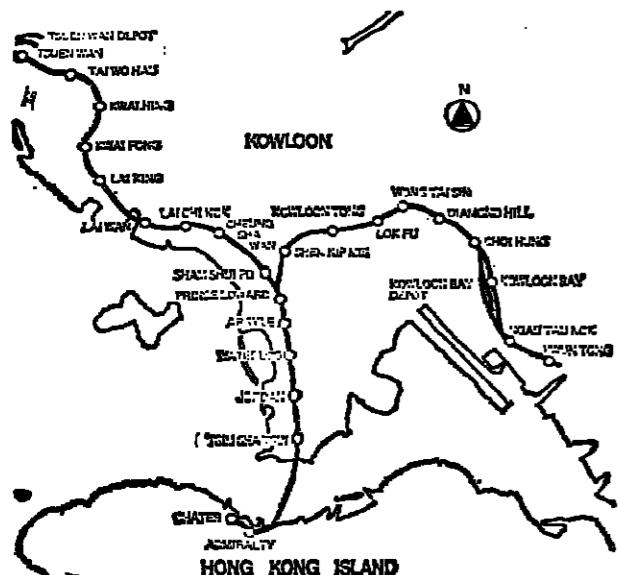
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The Mass Transit Railway Corporation made sure it was getting the best when it took on the contractors to build the railway. No new boys were allowed. Each contractor had to show that he had considerable experience and that he had a successful record with traditional and well-tried construction methods.

The corporation's view was that this project was no place for a civil engineering experiment. It could not afford failures. And it insisted that the contractors provided financial guarantees for their work.

No one had any illusions about the difficulties. The railway has been constructed in diverse geological conditions: heavily decomposed granite, re-lain sand and solid rock. Moreover, the work has been done in the middle of a teeming urban area. Because of the wide diversity of terrain almost every kind of construction technique has been used.

Some stations were built from the bottom up, others from the top down; some in bored tunnels; some over-head. Methods employed were cut-and-cover; diaphragm walling, in which underground walls were built and the ground between was excavated; and Benotto piling. Some of the tunnelling was done in free air and some, because of Hong Kong's high water table, was done in compressed air.

One of the most difficult areas was north Nathan Road, in Kowloon, where the nature of the ground made progress slow. Much of the rock was granite which decomposed when exposed, turning into a shaly gravel. But the decomposition was random and unpredictable and there were sections of hard boulders which slowed piling. In this district, an interlocking piling method was used and because of the hard going the work fell behind. But the Gammon-Kier-Lilley joint venture carrying out the work brought in more plant, accelerated the work and at last made up the lost time.

"As elsewhere, we altered the sequences of work, switching electrical and mechanical parts of the programme, for example, to keep up our overall speed," Mr Ronald Mead, engineering and project director of the MTR Corporation, said. "The key to it all was to see that the segments of the construction work dovetailed perfectly without any waste of time. And the flexibility of our approach enabled us to do that and to make up time when we ran into snags."

The 15 stations on the modified initial system, 12 underground and three elevated, are among the largest in the world. Most are 250 yd in length and 33 yd deep. The longest is the 450-yd Chater station in Central district.

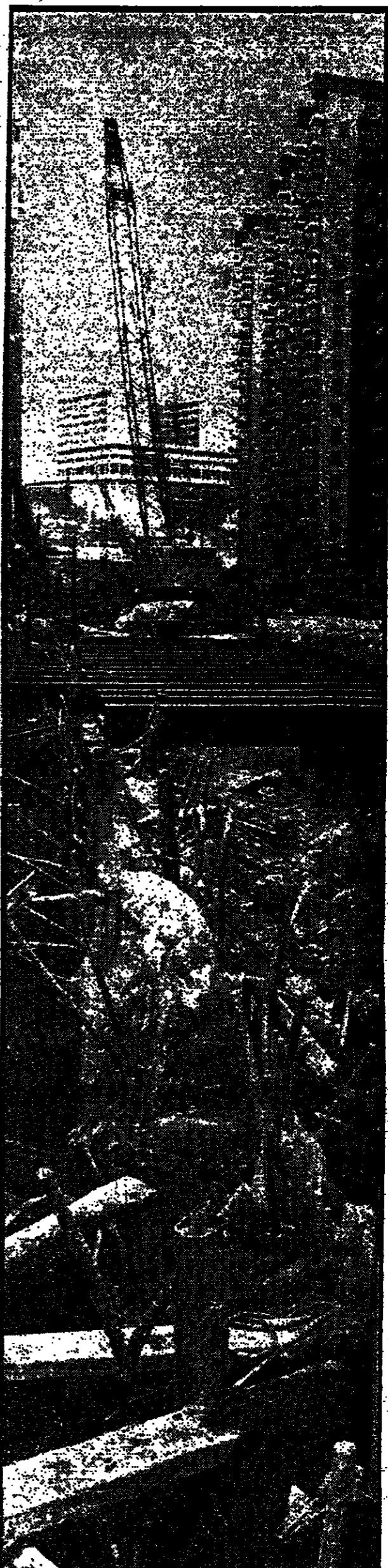
In a project made up of large and difficult challenges the construction of the cross-harbour tunnel was one of the major jobs.

The tunnel is a twin tunnel encased in one construction, rather like a double-barrel shotgun. It was cast in sections of prestressed concrete, each 109 yd in length. There are 14 sections, made in a dry dock, floated into the harbour and lowered into place by a giant rig. Before they were lowered a trench was dredged on the harbour floor to receive them and this was coated with a "matress" of crushed stone. Each unit weighed 7,500 tonnes and was fastened tightly to its mate when water was pumped out of it. The tunnel is about 85ft down.

The building of the 14 units was done in a dry dock, excavated for the purpose. But the conditions of the ground slowed the building of the dock by several months. The schedule required that the time should be made up — and this was done by enlarging the dock so the contractors could cast four units at a time instead of the three originally planned.

Meanwhile a floating dry dock was brought from Japan for the casting of some smaller units. The casting cycle was reduced and the routine for laying the tunnel segments was changed. This meant that the last unit was joined up a year ago — and the tunnel was completed on target.

At the busiest time of construction of the metro there were more than 8,000 men at work. Long hours were worked throughout the building programme and, where necessary, as in the case of compressed air tunnelling, the construction was a round-the-clock task. Contractors knew the importance of keeping on schedule; and, in any case, there was close monitoring. So contractors had to offer good wages to attract and keep men; and they could



Behind the scenes are vast workshops where every train will be checked every day. And the entire operation of the railway is controlled from a central control room with large computer consoles. Operators can monitor the progress of all trains and can see all the stations by way of closed-circuit television.

Part of the huge dovetailing operation in building the MTR has been staff training. There is no built-in community experience of running a railway, let alone an advanced metro. Staff have been training for a year and some of them went to London to get some experience on the Underground. One of MTR staff supervising training told me: "It hasn't been easy for people who have come into something which is a completely new experience. But they have learnt very quickly."

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The MTR Corporation is under instructions to run the metro on "prudent commercial lines". This means that it has to make a profit. According to all the calculations (and so far the estimates have proved remarkably accurate) the railway will be making money in two years and all the debts will be paid off in 12 years. Hong Kong's metro will be the first profit-making underground railway system since the Second World War.

Moreover, the MTR Corporation is making \$HK700m. (about £66m) from the huge property developments above Kowloon Bay depot, Chater station and Admiralty station.

The corporation had its roots in the provisional authority set up in 1974. Then, when it was to build a larger system, a Japanese consortium won the contract for £500m. But the world recession began to have its effect and the consortium backed out in January 1975, leaving the Hong Kong Government badly shaken.

But Mr (now Sir) Philip Bond-Cave, the financial secretary to the Government, was determined to go ahead. The project had its critics, but in his view the metro was urgently needed.

The Government opted for a modest system, about one fifth smaller than the original plan, and the MTR Corporation, government-owned, was set up in September 1975. The work was divided into 25 major civil engineering contracts and 10 electrical and mechanical contracts.

The cost of the project, including land compensation for displacement, was



rates, administrative costs and inflation during construction, was put at £540m. That estimate has not been increased during the construction time in spite of large rises in the prices of raw materials, the doubling of local interest rates, Hong Kong's 7.5 per cent average annual inflation over the past five years, and the Hong Kong dollar's 16.5 per cent fall against major currencies.

Nor has there been any increase in the estimated £387m cost of the Tsuen Wan extension, scheduled for completion in two years. The corporation has employed the tightest control in its financing and a variety of channels for fund raising. The Hong Kong Government, which owns all the equity and controls board appointments, has provided £108m as a direct contribution, and guaranteed the corporation's loans.

The corporation set out to raise the rest of the money at home and abroad with the aim of securing enough funding in the early stages to cover the building of the railway, then negotiating to lengthen the term of the debts, limiting exposure to currency fluctuation and arranging as much fixed-interest debt as Hong Kong dollar loans as possible.

Mr Norman Thompson, the MTR chairman, who believes strongly in making contacts at the top, flew around the world in 1975 to negotiate for export credits from the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The total amount of export credits available to the corporation is expected to reach about \$HK1,900m.

An important breakthrough was achieved in November 1975 when a banking consortium led by Manufacturers Hanover Trust put up \$US400m. And with this the MTR was really in business. Another important step was the issue in May 1976 of \$HK400m of 9.375 per cent bonds maturing in 10 years, the first non-government bond of this maturity issued in Hong Kong.

For the overseas contracts for the metro, about \$HK1,900m has been arranged in export credit. These credits carry a fixed rate of interest, between 7% and 9% per cent, with repayments by 1992, and have a facility built in for early repayment. These interest rates were attractive enough, but with credit arranged in the exporting country's currency, the MTR had to bear the exchange risks.

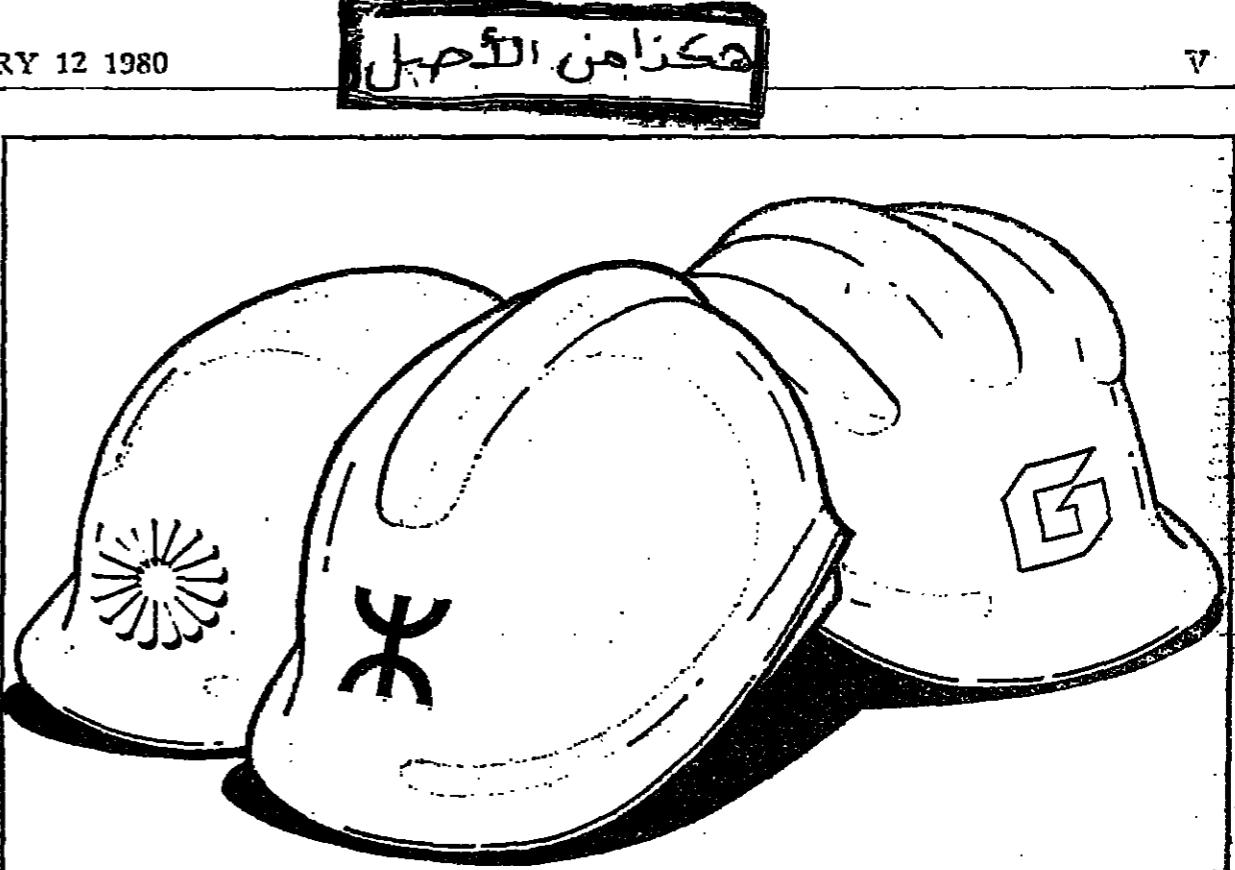
However, by the time the financing of the extension to Tsuen Wan was started in 1977 the position had changed. The corporation was in a stronger position, had a good track record and was able to get better terms than were possible in the earlier years of construction. Export credit finance for the extension has been secured in Hong Kong dollars, lessening the corporation's exposure to exchange risks.

Meanwhile, the building of the railway was being undertaken at a fortunate time. Contractors badly wanted work, and the large-scale initial borrowing had been done at a time of excess liquidity.

As had been planned, the Manufacturers Hanover Trust loan was rearranged to \$US600m to be spread over 10 years and at a lower rate. Money has also been borrowed on the open market, with loans repayable over periods from two weeks to a year. General finance rates are at floating rates of interest with a margin over the interbank rate or best lending rate.

"If you spend your capital first and collect the revenue later, you have to score," Mr W. S. Lau, the corporation's finance director, said. "Inflation naturally helps a project of this size to make a profit, and running costs are a small proportion of budget. The fare structure is right too. The MTR is compact and heavily used for much of the day."

"It is essential for us to get our money at the lowest cost and to raise as much as possible of the debt in Hong Kong dollars because our revenue is in that currency. We have to pay high rates for money on the open market, but enjoyed the key years of 1975-77 when rates were low. Even though operating costs are slightly above our original forecasts because of fuel price increases and other factors, we are still within budget."



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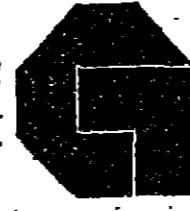
Predicably, Gammon played a significant part in it, participating in four major contracts: for the Lok Fu station and adjacent running tunnels, and for the Chater/Pedder and Admiralty stations, in joint venture with

Senlab of Sweden, Hochleif of West Germany and Dragages of France; for permanent way works, in joint venture with Henry Boot of the U.K.; and for the Argyle Street, Waterloo Road and Prince Edward Road stations and connecting tunnels, in joint venture with Kier International and Liley Construction of the U.K.

The total value of these contracts exceeded HK\$1 billion.

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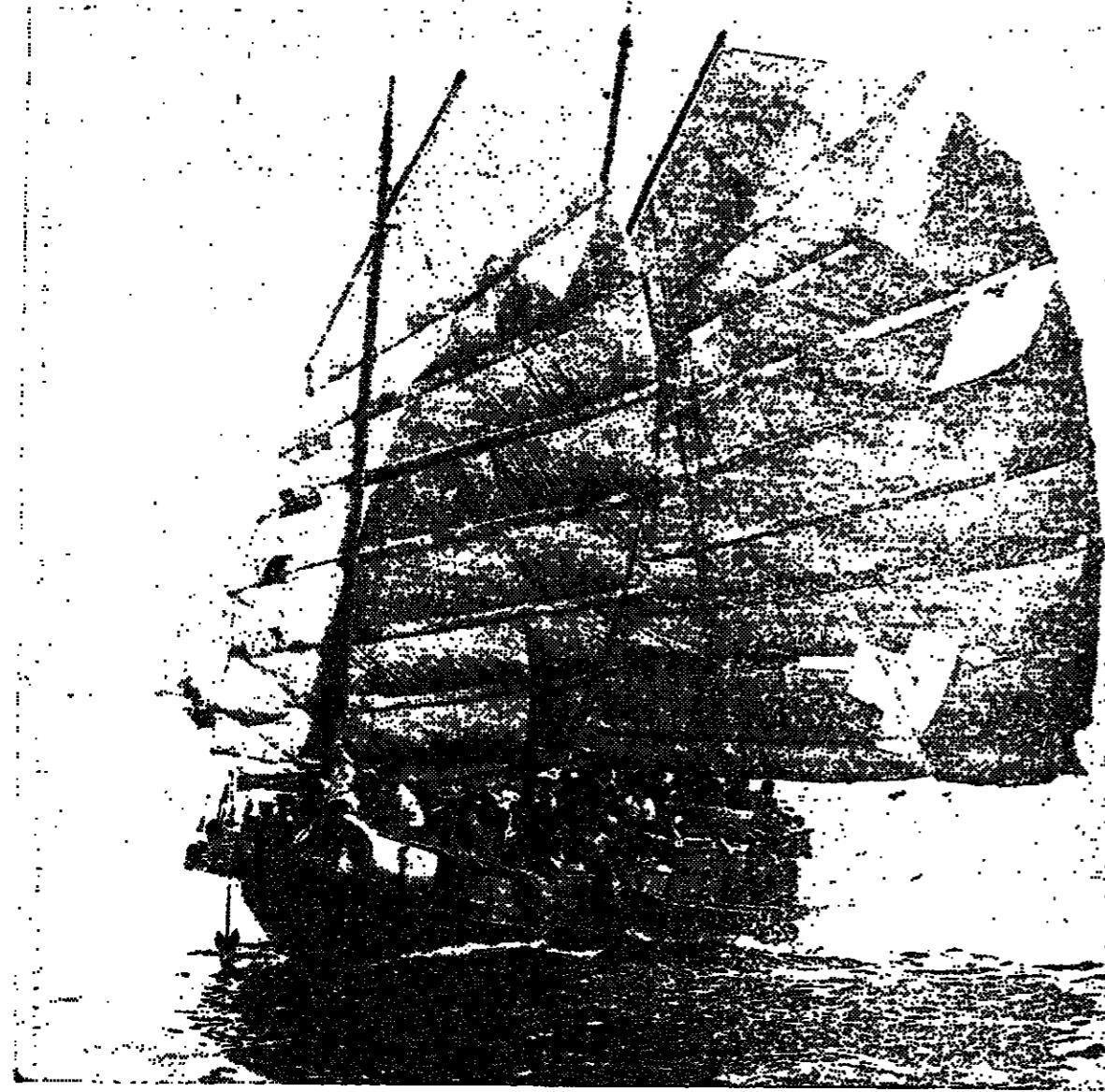


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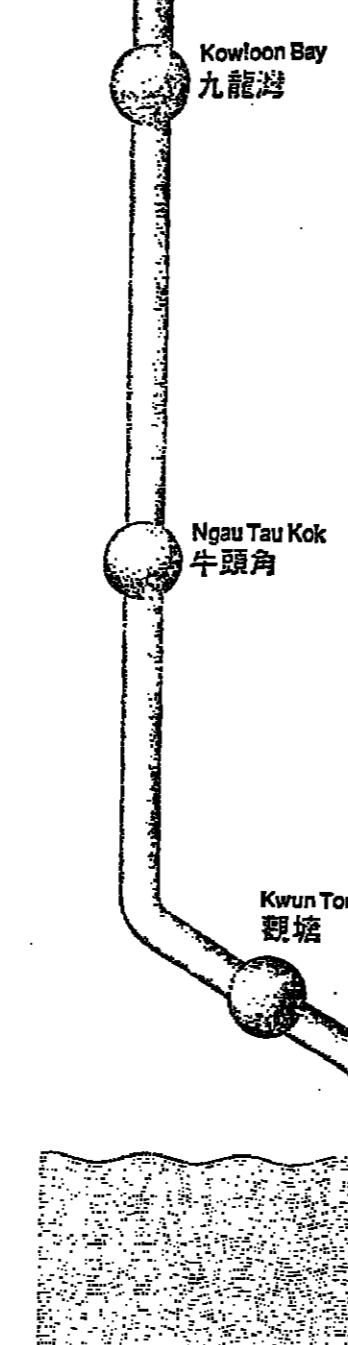
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Fair compensation but some dispute

Autocratic powers used in massive disruption



The construction of the Mass Transit Railway has been urban open-heart surgery on a massive scale. Inevitably the driving of the railway through one of the most densely populated districts of the world has been the cause of disruption, unremitting noise, traffic diversions, pollution—and not a little annoyance on the part of some of those moved out of homes and businesses.

There was never any chance that the railway's course would be diverted or its progress stopped. There was no question of a long, hard-fought planning inquiry, of the kind that precedes any important civil engineering project in Britain. Right from the start the railway was destined to go through, on course and on time, come what may.

It was clearly laid out in the Mass Transit Railway (Land Resumption and Related Provisions) Ordinance that: "No person shall have a right of objection to the delineation of land in any plan or map prepared (for the building of the Metro) and the fact that land is therein delineated as being within the railway area shall for all purposes be conclusive evidence that it may be required to be resumed or that easements in, under or over it may need to be created for the purposes of an incidental to the railway."

Thus the Government, and the MTR Corporation which it owns, had the power to ride roughshod. But in a place like Hong Kong, even though it is no democracy, it is neither wise nor really possible to act regardless of people's interests and feelings.

Certainly the Government saw that the task was to get the railway built quickly, but it had to sell the idea to the people. It also had to bring in a huge programme of public information and offer fair compensation to those displaced or disturbed.

In some areas there had to be a radical reorganization of people's lives and travelling habits as the railway was built. Thousands had to be moved and rehoused, a village had to be removed and relocated. Factories have had to be demolished and the business set up elsewhere.

In all, about 12,000 people have had to be resettled in government-built housing, 4,000 have been housed in temporary accommodation and 9,000 await their move to new homes. The Government has paid out £27m in compensation.

Before work started on the project and as it was progressing, people were told through the media what was happening. Closer detail and advice were provided by teams of civil servants and people were told how to get compensation, jobs and alternative housing.

Statutory compensation payments were made to land and property owners under the terms of the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance. People whose businesses suffered were compensated for their losses and other people have been helped under a system of ex gratia payments set up to meet special cases.

The ordinance gives people the right to appeal to the Lands Tribunal if they are not happy with compensation offered (it is based on fair market values) or if they are dissatisfied with the progress of their claims.

It has not been an entirely smooth road. Many people have bowed to the inevitable, have accepted their compensation as reasonable, have been resettled; but in some cases entangled interests and resentments have led to people digging in their heels and fighting the Government.

In the case of the clearance of West Point Buildings there was a long campaign by owners and occupiers, enraged at being ordered to move out of business, they had spent years building up. There was a clash between residents, demolition squads and the police before the final, peaceful, eviction.

On the whole, compensation for these people is regarded as fair. They have received the market value of their flats and business premises, a disturbance allowance of £2 a sq ft and £1,000 to help to meet conveyancing fees. Owner-occupiers had a £150 a month rent allowance to cover the period between leaving their old premises and moving into public housing. The settlement of the West Point Buildings compensation, after protracted negotiations, cost the Government £11.4m.

Because the line of the railway was drawn close to the centres of demand, the upsetting of the lives of thousands of people could not be helped. Nathan Road,

in Kowloon, for example, is big way and is building a busy and crowded business and residential area. schools, restaurants and sports facilities on four sites running over it and is used by a million people a day.

Perhaps, the most spectacular is at the Kowloon Bay depot, not far from the station, and the site of the MTR maintenance work shops and rolling stock sheds. Above the depot has been built a vast slab of concrete, 25 acres in area, supported on 52ft columns. This platform is the largest area of concrete constructed at this height anywhere in the world. On top of it are being built 5,000 flats which will be homes for 25,000 people.

There are parking spaces for 1,000 cars, a department store, a supermarket, five banks, a restaurant, shops, cinema, tennis courts and a sports centre with swimming pool. It represents a small and self-contained town built on a sort of "wedding

cake" tier, an ingenious answer to Hong Kong's chronic shortage of building space. It is the largest of the corporation's developments and is being carried out in partnership with two development companies. The complex is known as Telford Gardens and will be completed during next year.

A similar, though smaller, development will provide 4,000 flats for 20,000 people above the depot at the Tsuen Wan terminus. This, too, will have a considerable commercial area and with building being carried out in the development over. Admiralty station, Office towers of 35 floors and 26 floors are being built on a podium and the lower floors will be developed as an air-conditioned shopping centre.

For the MTR Corporation property development is at the end of 1983.

At Argyle, in Kowloon, very profitable extension of its work. So far it has profited in the development over. Admiralty station, Office towers of 35 floors and 26 floors are being built on a podium and the lower floors will be developed as an air-conditioned shopping centre.

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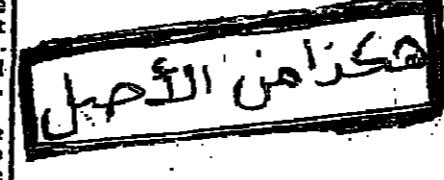
Tsuen Wan extension, at Kwai Fong and Kwai Hing.

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AN EXPLOSIVE TIGHTROPE

The free and fair election which Britain is conducting in Rhodesia is, as was feared, turning into a campaign of intimidation versus intimidation. The more normal process of electioneering gathers momentum, but whether the election can actually take place at the end of the month depends on the level of violence reached in the intimidatory process. There is a stage at which it could merge into a resumption of the civil war, even assuming Mr. Mugabe will not carry out threats to denounce the ceasefire.

Lord Soames's problem is basically to restrain intimidation to a level at which the electors do actually get to the polls to record a secret vote, in the assurance that it is really secret, however much their recent experiences of future fears dictate their choice. The events of the past weekend show how difficult it will be for Lord Soames to achieve even the minimal result which will enable Britain to declare what the composition of the new assembly is, install whatever party or combination of parties seems able to start governing, and safely withdraw.

To put matters thus is not to be cynical but to face the underlying realities. It must be reiterated that at least an election is being held (as the world demands) and that this is a unique way of resolving an armed conflict in Africa—perhaps anywhere. Most of those who attacked Britain in the United Nations were states which, as Lord Carrington pointed out, would not know a free and fair election if they saw one. Most of them want a victory by Mr. Mugabe, and their criticism is that his freedom to campaign in his own way is being limited or copied. In their sort of state

intimidation is unnecessary because only one party contests the election, though usually some intimidation is added to ensure an appearance of enthusiasm.

The criticisms fired at Lord Soames from inside Rhodesia is similarly motivated. Each side blames Britain for backing or not repressing the intimidation practised by the other side. Atrocities and incidents, like the bombing of the bus full of the Bishop's supporters or the attempts by persons whose parties and motives are yet unknown to assassinate Robert Mugabe, are presumed evidence that the Governor is not restraining the opposition.

Yet everybody knows that the Governor has little actual power to restrain anybody. Even if he had attempted a different course with the Bishop's so-called auxiliaries, put technically under ultimate British control, it is now clear that Mr. Mugabe's Zanla army had made (and was probably making throughout the Lancaster House conference) arrangements to leave enough of its effectiveness outside the assembly points to intimidate voters, not only in areas where it had become the major force, but to extend into areas where the Bishop or Mr. Nkomo exercises predominant influence. The orderly assembly of Mr. Nkomo's men at their assembly points is giving Zanla new scope; and the withdrawal (were this possible) of the "auxiliaries" would have the same effect in Shona areas where the Bishop hopes to win seats. Nobody is going to give ground or take more risks than they need.

This is the hard reality, and it proceeds from the bedrock fact, never to be forgotten, that the election is being run by the British presence in a mere truce between two—or three—armed

forces who remain armed. Postponing the election would not change this fact; indeed, now the lines of intimidation are drawn, a shorter campaign would offer better chances of reaching the polls ahead of disaster. There is no going back: for Britain, its monitors dispersed, retreat is cut off. The Governor hardly seems to be in a position to ban Mr. Mugabe's candidates in defiance of the Zanu-PF threats to revert to war, war against British colonialism; and indeed he has been told to ban Mr. Nkala from campaigning on account of his activities.

Nor is it a valid criticism (put forward by Mr. Todd after the Governor had intervened to have him released on bail) that the Governor is too dependent on the former regime's agencies. The Governor's position was accepted by all at Lancaster House. His position can be no more independent than the possibilities of his non-Rhodesian staff permit. Mr. Todd's case may prove a timely check or warning. But Mr. Mugabe's attacks on British imperialism come oddly from a man who wanted a bigger and stronger British presence. Perhaps it could be strengthened here or there—but to supersede the existing state apparatus in order to ensure impartiality was always accepted as impracticable, as indeed Britain's allies and foreign observers should know.

All that the Governor can do is, from the reports of the observers, the monitors, the local police and the election commission, to weigh the balance of intimidation. So far the verdict goes against Mr. Mugabe's party. The hope must be that Mr. Mugabe thinks he is winning and so has no incentive to repudiate the election; the Bishop cannot, and Mr. Nkomo will not. If that equation breaks down, almost anything can happen.

A MAINE PRIMARY TO REMEMBER

It is one of the ironies of the American presidential election system that after being defeated by President Carter in Sunday's caucus elections in Maine, a state regarded as part of his home territory, Senator Kennedy can claim a sort of victory. A few months ago it appeared impossible for Mr Carter to beat Mr. Kennedy anywhere in New England, and the question was whether he could retrieve the situation with victories elsewhere. But now, in the aftermath of Iran and Afghanistan, when Mr Carter scrapes home to challenge Mr Carter on the issue of leadership, attacking Mr Carter for failing to provide it, essentially in the domestic area, and undertaking to do better himself. But this was undermined by the crises in South-west Asia, which enabled Mr Carter to appear as the man in command and rally public opinion behind him. So, faced with the near-collapse of his campaign, Mr Kennedy took a new tack, moving back to the liberal, or leftish, wing of the Democratic Party in his Georgetown speech. He accused Mr Carter of "Republican economics", and proposed a freeze on wages and prices as the way to reduce inflation, as well as petrol rationing to reduce dependence on imported oil. He also attacked Mr Carter's plan for registration for the draft, and accused him of "helter-skelter militarism". This new approach was a calculated risk, because American public opinion has moved to the right in the past few years. But something was needed to give a new

impetus to the Kennedy campaign, and to keep it going over the next few months, in the hope that Mr Carter will falter.

The results in Maine suggest that this could possibly happen, the volatility of American public opinion being what it is. It is true that Maine, like the rest of New England, is in a sense home ground for a Senator from Massachusetts. But it is also a conservative part of the United States, and supporters of Mr Carter were well entrenched. So the question arises whether the new found appeal of Mr Carter, based on his handling of the crises in Iran and Afghanistan, has begun to fade.

This is something that could happen quite quickly if South-west Asia began to disappear from the front of people's minds, given the widespread disillusionment in the past with Mr Carter's performance. It has not happened yet, but both Mr Kennedy and Mr Brown have to keep their campaigns alive so that if and when it does, they can focus on the more vulnerable parts of Mr Carter's record—particularly inflation and energy. The Maine election results have not removed the doubts there must be about Mr Kennedy's candidacy—his inaccuracy when confronting difficult questions, his inadequate explanation of the Chappaquiddick incident, the possibly inflationary effects of his economic policies. But they mean that he can stay in the race and make the criticisms that need to be made of Mr Carter's...

Such is the significance which is attached to relatively unimportant elections in electorally minor states like Iowa and Maine. And yet there is some sense in these swings of opinion. Iowa showed that in spite of his low standing in the polls before the taking of the hostages in

The nuclear option

From Mr Peter Foot

Sir, I share the bewilderment and disappointment of the Reverend Professor Carris (February 4) when he notes the lack of any response, either in your columns or in the House of Commons, to Lord Zuckerman's challenge to orthodoxy on the subject of the nuclear balance (January 21).

One is reminded that in 1823 the then Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, remarked of the Monroe Doctrine that it was imperative, for the United States not to appear "to come as the cockpit to the British man-of-war".

Quite why Britain should now follow the nuclear-powered American man-of-war remains a mystery, even after reading up in *Hansard* the recent debate on East-West relations. The failure of any MP to examine this issue persuades me, contrary to your editorial of January 31, that the debate did not represent the House at its best.

But perhaps we should take heart from the absence of comment on some of the opinions given generous space in your newspaper. We have all reason to be thankful that no approval has so far been seen or heard of the wholly ludicrous ideas put forward by Professor F. A. Hayek (January 12).

Professor Hayek may think it both practical and necessary to threaten Tehran that "bombs will be falling at an increasing rate at the seat of the Iranian Government" unless the unfortunate American hostages are released immediately. Presumably, the silence which has greeted this proposal betokens a general agreement that the consequences of such an act would be most painful in the long run, or alternatively, virtual extinction in the short run.

It is to be hoped that Zuckerman has said enough to convince us all not only that there are profound doubts being expressed in the United States about the course plotted for the American man-of-war, but also that the one thing the United States does not need

at the moment is advice like that emanating from Professor Hayek. If Western Europe is seen to side with the hawks and doves hawk in the United States (pace Arrigo Levi, January 31) then our peril is indeed great.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FOOT,
32 Summerside Street,
Edinburgh,
February 4.

Syndicate bidding

From Mr Ian Harris

Sir, I was interested to read your correspondent's report (February 21) about the joint purchase of the Algarde sculpture by a syndicate headed by Agnew's.

It is very common practice for several dealers to get together to buy an item in partnership, but I have seldom known such an arrangement to be reported to the auctioneers.

A frequent reason for such partnerships is to finance more easily the purchase of the finest pieces. Dealers in partnership will often pay a higher price than they would have paid individually, since they are sharing not only the capital cost but also the risk.

More commonly, however, is the reason that where several dealers are all interested in a piece, they see no reason to bid against one another and prefer to buy in partnership. The piece is then sold by whichever member of the partnership can get the best price for it, it comes to the "knockout", where the piece is immediately reauctioned amongst the members of the ring.

In the first instance each partner knows exactly what the partnership is prepared to pay, and one member is delegated to bid, whereas in the second situation any member may bid, and the others will abstain from bidding; but no one knows the final price which any member may be prepared to pay subsequently.

The second arrangement is totally illegal, although widely practised, the first is also widely practised, and as far as I know it is legal, but it is not, I think, quite right.

There has never been a successful prosecution under the 1927 Act nor is there ever likely to be, unless someone succeeds in a little illicit bidding.

It is questionable whether the practice even deserves to be illegal, and certainly the amount of the money involved does not even begin to compare with the vast sums lost to the Exchequer by vast sums lost in surplus sales, about which no fuss has ever been made.

Yours sincerely,

IAN HARRIS,
N. Bloom and Son (Antiques) Ltd,
40-42 Conduit Street, W1.

Playing the game

From Professor Sir Myles Finley

Sir, If the Olympic Games are to be restored to their original venue and simplicity, purified of the troublesome innovations by Baron de Coubertin, founder of the modern Games, and his successors, there must be no compromise.

Among the necessary conditions are the following:

1. All entries must be personal and individual.

2. There shall be no teams or team events.

3. No women may participate in any capacity, not even as spectators.

4. All applicants must certify that they are of pure Greek descent on both paternal and maternal sides.

5. The only records to be kept are the names of the winners of individual events and the names of their native cities.

6. The managing committees will undertake to provide a stadium and hippodrome and a few bath-houses, but no other facilities, no accommodation and no stands for spectators.

Yours &c.
M. I. FINLEY,
Arkwright College,
Cambridge,
February 9.

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Yours &c.
M. I. FINLEY,
Arkwright College,
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February 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government, the law and the unions: bridging the gaps

From Professor P. S. Attiyah, FBA

Sir, Readers of *The Times* should be made aware that many legal scholars all over the world would vigorously dispute suggestions that decisions such as those in the steel strike case involve "pure" questions of law which can be decided by judges without reference to policies or value judgments.

Of course nobody would deny that some legal cases are so clear cut that only one decision is possible: but cases of this kind scarcely ever reach the Court of Appeal, let alone the House of Lords. In appeal cases it is almost always the case that the respectable legal arguments can be found for both sides and that judges have to decide for themselves what the law ought to be, and do not merely "find" the law in prior decisions or statutes.

The current controversy centres around the meaning of the words "in furtherance" of a trade dispute.

Lord Wedderburn (February 4) and the House of Lords (Lord Wilberforce dissenting) would have it that these words are only capable of one meaning, viz. that whatever the officials of the union bona fide rank is in furtherance of a trade dispute is also a political one. Had the whole steel industry been privately owned today the present dispute would have been settled. Some firms would have paid up and those which could not afford to do would have gone into liquidation.

It is quite wrong to think this is the only possible, or the only reasonable, construction of the words, simply as a matter of language. In the MacShane case several alternative constructions were canvassed, and as a pure matter of language the wholly subjective approach adopted by the majority is far from being the most plausible.

One could test the issue by asking what the courts would make of a statute which gave powers to the "curious" decisions of the Master of the Rolls. One may ignore Professor Wedderburn's side of the argument, but if he bona fide thinks this will further policy X? The answer almost certainly is No, and I have little doubt that Lord Wedderburn would concur with the Law Lords in giving that answer.

Indeed, as lawyers well know, there has been a long process of legal development over the extent of the control exercisable by the Courts over ministerial powers.

In *Liversidge v Anderson* in 1941 the Law Lords held (over the famous dissent of Lord Atkin) that Regulation 16B (which gave the Minister powers of detention of those whom he "had reasonable cause" to suspect of enemy associations) extended to enable the Minister to detain those whom he thought he had reasonable cause to suspect, i.e. they adopted the subjective approach similar to that in the MacShane case.

Subsequent decisions have repudiated this case which is now explained as being a wartime "policy" decision, and only recently Lord Scarman said that it was time the 1941 case was laid to rest. Modern decisions are equally policy decisions: they rest upon the clearest possible judgment of the Minister's policy judgment that uncontrolled Ministerial power is an evil which can only be justified in the most exceptional circumstances.

In law it is now enough that a strike should be believed by those taking part in it to be in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute for it to be immune from the rule of law as it applies to ordinary citizens however grave the injury it inflicts on them and however direct and far-reaching its political consequences. Whatever may have been the position in 1875, a sovereign Parliament in 1950 must surely consider whether it can tolerate the continuance of a situation so manifestly contrary to the will of the people including the great majority of individual trade unionists and so inimical to the liberties of all of us whether trade unionists or not.

But that is not because of any divine dispensation accorded to the law lords ensuring that they alone (together of course with Professor Wedderburn) know the Law, but because the structural hierarchy of our judicial system provides that theirs is the last word in the matter.

The last word as a matter of present law, the so-called "golden formula" of industrial law which enjoys Professor Wedderburn's enthusiastic support, may have worked in 1875 but has become a tarnished and less effective instrument for revolution, as was pointed out in your recent leading article.

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Whatever may be the ultimate effect of the 1941 case, it is clear that the 1927 Act will remain that disputes with nationalized industries inevitably have political implications.

Yours sincerely,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords.

From Professor Yorick Wilks

Sir, Is there not perhaps a lack of seriousness in the discussion of the consequences of the House of Lords decision in *MacShane v Express Newspapers*? Even in your editorial today (February 8), commenting on their Lordships' written judgment on the steel case, you take issue with them on their so-called subjective interpretation of the state of the law: that immunity from prosecution follows from an honest belief that acts done are in the furtherance or contemplation of a trade dispute. But surely the issue is the loss of the "remote" protection.

It is questionable whether the practice even deserves to be illegal, and certainly the amount of the money involved does not even begin to compare with the vast sums lost to the Exchequer by vast sums lost in surplus sales, about which no fuss has ever been made.

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How 'art' comes to aid of merchandising, page 17

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

The price of disappointed expectations, page 17

Stock markets

FT Index 469.9 up 8.5

FT Gilt 66.39 down 0.14

Sterling

\$2.3045 up 60 points

Index 73.0 up 0.2

Dollar

Index 85.1 unchanged

Gold

\$71.25 up \$14.5

Money

3-month sterling 17.5 to 17.5

3-month Euro \$ 141 to 141

6-month Euro \$ 141 to 141

IN BRIEF

Cement to cost 24pc more next month

Britain's construction industry received a further body blow last night when cement manufacturers announced a 24 per cent price rise. The increase from March 1 pushed up the price of both ordinary portland and rapid-hardening portland cement.

The Cement Makers' Federation said last night that the rise was due to the "substantially increasing costs" of energy.

The federation also pointed out that major producers of cement needed to begin moves towards achieving a sufficient return on capital employed.

Maintenance study

One person in 12 in manufacturing industry is engaged in maintenance, according to a study published by the Centre for Interfirm Comparison. Annual maintenance costs in Britain amount to 25 per cent of the value of the plant employed or between £10,000m to £15,000m.

Morden plant to close

Muirhead, the electrical and electronics components group, is to close its Morden, Surrey factory and transfer production to its plants in Beckenham, Kent.

Copper price surge

Speculative buying which developed on news of a build-up of Cuban, Angolan and Zaire rebel forces on the air border caused a sharp advance in copper prices yesterday. At the afternoon close in the London Metal Exchange ring, cash price bars had advanced £42.50 per tonne on the day to £1,351, and three-month futures were £49 up on the day at £1,355.50.

£1.568m surplus

Britain's chemicals industry earned a trade surplus of £1,566m last year, slightly up on 1978. Imports rose by 23 per cent to £5,398m while exports increased by 17 per cent to £3,816m. The deficit with other European Community producers narrowed last year, from £160.3m to £143.4m.

Prospects in Algeria

British companies are chasing contracts worth £1,200m in Algeria, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, said on his return from North Africa.

Glasgow factory threat

Up to 500 of the 1,000 workers at the Smith Corona type-writer plant in Glasgow, Strathclyde, are expected to be laid off because of a fall in orders.

IMF currency plan

Countries with large cash surpluses, such as oil producers, should be able to hold "part of their surplus in a currency managed internationally by the IMF and firmly backed, perhaps by the IMF's gold," M. Jacques de Larosiere, the IMF director-general, said, in an interview on French radio.

Wall Street down

On the New York Stock Exchange yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 6.14 points to 889.59. In terms of Special Drawing Rights, the United States dollar was 1.31711, and the pound sterling 0.570919.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Barclays Bank 13p to 443p

BP 15p to 410p

BSR 5p to 42p

ComFair 163p to 96p

Cyfarfas 25p to 205p

Falls

Assoc Paper 2p to 44p

BAT Ind 15p to 245p

Boward & Wynd 15p to 10p

Lasme 5p to 500p

Lep Grp 5p to 235p

THE POUND

Bank buys 2.13

Australia \$ 30.25

Austria Sch 2.72

Belgium Fr 12.44

Canada \$ 12.57

Denmark Kr 8.65

Finland Mark 9.28

France Fr 4.19

Germany Dm 58.00

Greece Dr 11.52

Kingdom \$ 1.11

Iceland Fr 1945.00

Japan Yen 580.00

Sharp increase in wholesale prices points to further surge in inflation

By Caroline Atkinson

A grim warning of the inflationary pressures now in the pipeline came yesterday with unexpectedly bad figures for wholesale prices last month. British manufacturers put up their prices by 21 per cent in January, the largest monthly increase since 1977.

Raw material costs shot up by 31 per cent, bringing the rise over the 12 months to January to 27.1 per cent, according to official figures released yesterday by the Department of Industry.

Dearer oil has played a big part in pushing up manufacturers' costs and prices. Almost two-thirds of the January rise in input prices, or raw material costs, was caused by higher prices for crude oil.

The increases in oil prices at the end of last year are now feeding through to factory gate or output prices (those charged by wholesalers). Oil accounted for about a third of the 21 per cent rise last month.

Wholesale prices provide some guide to the likely level of shop prices in the coming months. The retail price index, which covers these and other costs such as housing, is rising at just over 17 per cent a year. The January figure, to be published on Friday, will almost certainly show a sharp acceleration in this measure of inflation and will include the January rise in mortgage interest rates.

On a six monthly comparison, however, there may be some improvement in the figure, because the effect of the large Budget rise in VAT will drop out.

Wholesale output prices went up 17 per cent in the year to January. This was a sharp increase on the 15.1 per cent rise in the 12 months to December. There was a smaller upturn in the six-monthly measure of wholesale prices which rose by 15.3 per cent in December to 15.6 per cent last month.

January is traditionally a bad month because many manufacturers put up their prices. However, the rise last month was worse than expected.

The damaging effect of a strong pound on British indus-

try is also worrying. The Bank of England has intervened in the markets in the last two months, smoothing out the pound's rise. It is now 12.1 per cent higher against a basket of currencies than a year ago.

The gold boom also accounted for some of industry's increased costs last month. Dearer gold, silver and copper were important elements in the 44 per cent rise in the cost of materials other than oil bought by manufacturers outside the United Kingdom.

Food prices have exerted a moderate influence on the wholesale price indices. There was a 4.1 per cent fall between December and January, and there has been no visible progress by

manufacturers towards meeting efficiency targets set in previous reports. The SWP now finds itself in need of a fundamental rethink of the prospects and opportunities for the United Kingdom tyre industry.

A similar pattern is shown in the index for output prices.

Those charged by non-food manufacturers went up by 3.1 per cent between December and January, bringing the rise over three months to 5 per cent.

Food manufacturers put up their prices by only 1.1 per cent in the month, but by 3.1 per cent in the three months.

The dismal outlook for inflation in the coming months presents the Chancellor with hard choices in his Budget. It is expected that he will decide to raise excise duties on tobacco, alcohol and petrol in line with inflation. The value of these duties is eroded year by year by rising prices.

If the Chancellor restored all the specific duties to their value of a year ago, this would add an estimated 1 per cent to the retail price index. It would be even more inflationary to restore the duties to their real value of 1977, when they were last raised. But the Chancellor will have to raise indirect taxes if he is to be able to cut income taxes in the Budget. Big rate rises will add another twist to the inflationary spiral this spring.

The beginning of recession, coupled with very strong competition from abroad, has put sterling in a strong position, putting pressure on British companies to hold down prices. However, retail prices are still widely expected to rise to 20 per cent early this summer.

Sterling's strength has helped to keep price rises below what they would otherwise be. Given the poor outlook for inflating, the Government will have to raise indirect taxes if he is to be able to cut income taxes in the Budget.

The decision, given yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could mean that companies in hard-pressed industries face receipts and, as such, liable to tax in the normal way.

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Iran action against US bank hits snag

Legal proceedings by Iran's central bank against the Paris branch of Bank America ran into a predictable delay yesterday.

The Paris civil court refused to make a summary judgment on the Iranian action for repayment of \$100m deposited with Bank of America.

The court ruled that the Iranian central bank should take action under normal court procedure.

Regular proceedings in the central bank's action against the Paris branch of the American bank Citibank NA are now due to start on March 5.

The civil court refused last December to make a summary ruling on this action, involving \$50m deposited by Bank Marzi with Citibank.

Deepest mine shaft

Western Deep Levels, one of Anglo-American's gold mines, is proposing to sink the world's deepest gold mine shaft.

Together with a new gold plant, the shaft, which will reach 3,800 metres completion in 1992, will cost R450m (£245m).

The shaft will be sunk in part of a lease belonging to Western Ultra Deep Levels. The new system is expected to yield 450 tons of ore during its life of the mine.

US textile pacts

The United States has concluded agreements with Taiwan and South Korea restraining the rate of growth of their textile exports to America. Mr Keiter Webb, chief United States textile trade negotiator, says: "The restrictions are similar to those negotiated last month with Hongkong."

Brazil sets target

Brazil has set a 1980 foreign borrowing target of \$4,100m (about £1,780m) for the public sector's 60 largest companies and their 153 subsidiaries. Their investments will total \$19,000m.

China expands fibres

China's textile industry will receive more state investment funds and loans this year, with the emphasis on expanding chemical fibre production. New mills will include 21 chemical fibre plants, eight cotton and four for wool.

Spanish steel strike

About 9,000 Spanish steel workers at the four plants of Alcoa Hornos de Vizcaya and many of the 4,900 workers of Alcoa Hornos del Mediterraneo have started a two-day strike, joining about 24,000 employees of the Ensidesa company. This means that Spain's three largest steel producers are at a standstill.

JOINT COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT



WESTERN DEEP LEVELS LIMITED WESTERN ULTRA DEEP LEVELS LIMITED

(Both of which are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

PROPOSED NEW SHAFT SYSTEM AT WESTERN DEEP LEVELS

A proposal has been submitted to the board of Western Deep Levels by its technical advisers that an additional shaft system be sunk in the southern portion of the Western Deep Levels lease area and that a new gold plant with a rated mill capacity of 160,000 tons per month be constructed at the site. As a preliminary step the board has approved the expenditure of R9.8 million for placing of orders for long delivery items of equipment and the preparation of the site of the shaft system.

The board of Western Deep Levels has also agreed to enter negotiations with Western Ultra Deep Levels Limited for the incorporation of certain of its mineral rights as an extension to the Western Deep Levels lease area.

The board of Western Ultra Deep Levels Limited has agreed that, subject to the conclusion of a suitable agreement regarding the consideration payable to Western Ultra Deep Levels, it will take such steps as may be necessary to grant Western Deep Levels the right to mine that portion of the Western Ultra Deep mineral rights area which can be reached from the new shaft system.

The proposal submitted by the technical advisers envisages a twin shaft system which, with all ancillary surface and underground works, including the gold plant, constitutes the first phase of the project. This will reach full production at the end of 1986 at a cost of approximately R450 million in today's money terms. The projections indicate that, large as this scheme is, it could be financed out of profits from existing operations, together with the incremental cash flow which will arise when operations at the new shaft commence in the second half of 1985. However, the method of financing the project will only be determined when the agreement with Western Ultra Deep Levels has been concluded.

Apart from facilitating the mining of the southern portion of the Western Deep Levels lease area, a major advantage to be obtained from the siting of the proposed shaft system is that access will eventually be gained to a large tonnage of Venterdorp Contact reef situated south of the present lease area, in ground where the mineral rights are held by Western Ultra Deep Levels Limited. Such access will, however, only become possible following the sinking of a sub-vertical shaft system because of the depth of the VCR in the Western Ultra Deep Levels area. The sub-vertical shaft system is expected to be completed by 1992, at which stage a depth below surface of 3,800 metres will have been reached.

The total additional capital requirements over the life of the mine attributable to the whole project are forecast at R715 million in today's money terms.

The proposed expansion of operations in the existing lease area and the extension into the Western Ultra Deep mineral rights area is expected to provide over the remaining life of the mine an extra 56 million tons of ore which should yield an additional 450 tons of gold. The working costs to be incurred in the new shaft area are expected to be approximately the same as those applicable to the existing Nos. 2 and 3 shafts.

Copies of this announcement are being sent to all registered shareholders of both companies.

By order of the boards
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
Secretaries
per: C. R. Bull
Divisional Secretary

\$250m debentures issue also expected to be underwritten

Mitsubishi joins Chrysler rescue

Chrysler Corporation may get some much needed financial help soon from sources it has been pursuing for months—Wall Street and Mitsubishi Motors Co, Chrysler's Japanese partner.

Chrysler, according to Detroit reports, is expected to announce another interim financing arrangement with Mitsubishi this week that would insure the delivery of 40,000 Mitsubishi vehicles to Chrysler by the end of March, even though Chrysler cannot pay for them. Chrysler would have needed \$140m without Mitsubishi's assistance.

It is also understood that Chrysler is close to an agreement with E. F. Hutton & Co, a New York securities firm, for Hutton to underwrite all or part of the sale of a \$250m issue of Chrysler debentures that would be convertible into common stock. Hutton officials would not comment on the report.

Meanwhile, Chrysler executives tried to dampen speculation that the company would soon jointly manufacture or market cars and trucks with Peugeot-Citroen, the French car maker. Last week, Chrysler and Peugeot announced they had agreed to talk about joint manufacturing and marketing; Peugeot also agreed to lend Chrysler \$100m.

It became clear that last week's announcement suggesting joint ventures was

made largely at Peugeot's request. Chrysler sources said it was intended to blunt any French opposition to the loan.

The money, together with financing from Mitsubishi, the sale of convertible debentures and other sources will help Chrysler pay bills outstanding while it rounds up longer-term financing of some \$2,000m. Chrysler must get that before it can rely on \$1,500m of loan guarantees offered by the Federal government.

It is understood that Chrysler sought Mitsubishi's help because Chrysler itself did not have access any longer to nearly \$400m in letters of credit under an old agreement with Japanese banks. A spokesman for Mitsubishi in the United States said he was very hopeful that something would be announced in the next few days.

A merger or full partnership with Peugeot was not on the agenda, Mr Lee A. Iacocca, Chrysler chairman, said in an interview, and plans do not exist for "equity arrangements of any type" with Peugeot. "We don't have any specific goal" or deadline for any kind of specific

addressing the National Automobile Dealers' Association on Saturday in New Orleans, Mr Iacocca also invited all car makers, particularly the Japanese, to build their products in the United States. "I for one would love to see the parking

lot of a Honda plant filled with Omnis and Horizons", he said. "But the Japanese seem to be ignoring the invitation. I believe they do so at their own risk."

Mr Iacocca stopped short of backing a United Auto Workers' Union stand that exporters of more than 200,000 cars a year should be required to build assemblies in the United States.

The Chrysler chairman said: "No one wants to duck fair competition, but the imports are having a field day because the market changed faster than anyone could anticipate. For the time being, we shall have to compete. We have to sell."

Executives at Ford and American Motors also have made increasingly tough comments about the Japanese, who sell three out of four of all imported cars. Only General Motors is endorsing free trade without qualifications.

The imported car market claimed 22 per cent of the United States market last year and a Los Angeles market research company has predicted foreign car makers will take 27 per cent of the market in 1980.

Mr Iacocca did not suggest solutions to offset the \$3,500m trade imbalance reported last year against foreign competition. However, he was not sure that protectionist measures could be avoided even though he labelled himself "a free trader from way back".

ICI invests a further £7.2m on soda ash

By John Huxley

Imperial Chemical Industries has increased to £40m its investment programme to modernise soda ash production at the Mond division's Wallerscote works near Northwich, Cheshire.

More than 4,000 people are engaged in the production of soda ash, which is used mainly in the glass industry. ICI, with a capacity of 1.8 million tonnes a year is Britain's sole supplier.

Its relationship with other producers, mainly Solvay, is being investigated by the European Commission, which believes that the close ties between producers and customers could be in restraint of competition.

The decision to spend a further £7.2m on the ash finishing plant has been taken when the business is showing inadequate and declining profitability and is facing a strong challenge in both home and export markets.

In recent months the European Commission has received complaints that soda ash has been "dumped" in Western European markets by Comecon producers, and particularly the Soviet Union.

The ICI board believes the investment decision, taken after lengthy discussions, represents a major commitment to the future of the business.

However, Mr R. A. Fennis, general manager of Mond's Alkali Products Group, gave a warning that the new sanction would not by itself guarantee the future of the works.

It was essential, he said, that the group achieve improvements in reliability and efficiency, in working practices at all levels and in manpower productivity.

Centre will correlate expertise

Technology News



Mr Michael Swann: Centre chairman elect.

bridge, for Careers Research and Advisory Centre, ESI.

The accounts are by young graduates who describe their work and give a glimpse of the variety of engineering today. In a foreword to the book, Professor Eric Laithwaite of Imperial College says: "The accounts are dictated from conversations with young graduates in the profession whose careers illustrate what up-and-coming engineers might expect."

Among the illustrations are the following extracts:

"I took a degree in mechanical engineering at Bristol Technical College nine years ago before joining Trebor. I'm a development engineer, and one of the products that I am responsible for is Mint Imperials. My problem is how to produce them more economically and to improve consistency of quality..."

"Since I joined Culham, I've been working on some of the projects which we hope will one day enable us to produce power by means of hydrogen fusion..."

"I joined Wiggins Teape three years ago with a degree in chemical engineering from Newcastle. I'd never heard about the company until a leaflet fell off the shelf in the careers office..."

"I was really thrown in at the deep end when I started 10 months ago. First there was a strike at one of our major suppliers, which threatened our production, and then, in January, the situation was made worse by the transport drivers' dispute, which coincided with a gas cut owing to the weather conditions in the North Sea..."

One of its principal features, according to the GE designers, is that it can achieve a 50 per cent efficiency when converting coal to electricity, nearly 20 per cent greater than any conventional method of conversion.

Another major advantage of the process, according to the company, is that the cell will operate whether the gas which passes through the cell has been created from coal, coal derived oil or gas, petroleum liquids or natural gas.

Engineering insight

Insight into engineering problems from microprocessors to Mint Imperials, from nuclear safety to North Sea oil rigs, from refrigerating beer to designing helicopters, is provided by 76 first-hand accounts in the recently published *Hobson's Engineering Casebook* 1979-80 (Hobson's Press, Cambridge).

Kenneth Owen and Bill Johnstone

Hard sell' drive at Meccano

By R. W. Shakespeare

Workers who have been occupying the Airfix Industries' Meccano and Dinky toys factory in Liverpool since November 21 have now agreed to abandon their attempts to persuade the company to improve its redundancy terms.

However, the "sit in" will continue while shop floor and union representatives concentrate their efforts on mounting a "hard sell" operation, aimed at securing a buyer for the Birkenhead plant.

It now looks as though the most likely contender so far for a take over, the Age of Enlightenment transcendental meditation group has decided to drop out.

A spokesman at the organisation's base in Buckinghamshire confirmed that the bid for the Liverpool factory would not be pursued unless both Airfix and the unions could come up with "new possibilities".

Aid call for shipyards and textiles

By Peter Hill

Calls for an overall policy of financial assistance over the next five years for the restructuring and conversion of Europe's crisis-ridden shipbuilding and textiles industries will be made in a debate in the European Parliament today.

The debate will be based on a report prepared by the Parliament's committee on economic and monetary affairs for London Central and a member of the European Democratic Group who has played a formative part in the preparation of the report for the debate is anxious to see a common industrial policy adopted.

By order of the boards

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
Secretaries
per: C. R. Bull
Divisional Secretary

cluding the European Investment Bank and the Special and Regional Funds.

Euro-MPs will also be asked to approve the economic and monetary affairs committee preparing a detailed report on aid to industries in crisis and to growth industries.

Both textiles, particularly the synthetic fibres sector of the industry, and the shipbuilding industry are seen by the committee as prime cases for priority treatment in view of the heavy level of job losses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The mineral potential of Britain: some of the facts outlined

From the chairman of the Cornish Mining Development Association

ably in the United Kingdom". 1981. A pilot treatment plant is now being erected and if it is decided to put the mine into full production, which now seems likely, this could become one of the largest metalliferous mining operations ever known in Britain. As the *Mining Magazine* has pointed out, it has the potential to supply enough tungsten to satisfy the needs of the entire country. The same Company has recently obtained planning permission to examine another wolfram/tin deposit of a similar nature in Cornwall.

The revival of mining in the West of England has now become a matter of real national importance and it is high time that Parliament pays attention to the present very unsatisfactory position of mineral ownership. There is no need to nationalize the minerals but, as Mr T. H. E. Skeff, MP said in his letter (January 29) one of the things the state should do is to take power to license the working of the minerals. This would greatly facilitate further expansion of the industry.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. TROWNSON,
Chairman, Cornish Mining Development Association, Lurgan, Redruth, Cornwall, February 7.

Companies Bill comments 'surprising'

From Mr Laurence D. Hills, Sir, Viewers of the "Horizon" programme "Heritage of Trees" will have seen a little of the work of Professor Sirens of Sweden on super-fast willows harvested every three years to produce methanol and other fuels to replace ever more costly petrol, and wondered what Britain is doing in this field.

The answer is withdrawing financial support from willow research at Long Ashton Research Station, where it began in 1975. The present incumbent has spent 30 years on research and advisory work for the basket willow industry, with an annual turnover of £1.5m: the amenity and timber willow trade, £2m; and £13m worth of cricket bats (half of which are imported) from the £1.25m worth of cricket bat willow timber grown in Britain. All this, in-

cluding the maintenance of Britain's only willow collection of 300 varieties, compared with Sweden's 3,000, will be lost for a mere saving in the present cuts of less than £10,000 a year. Work on harnessing the racing speed of fast willows to grow energy and employment began at Long Ashton in 1975, and it now must end with the most short-sighted cut of all. Surely it would be possible for the Department of Energy, Energy Technology Support Unit at Harwell to fund this work on willows, which is fuel for the future rather than agriculture or forestry.

I am Sir, Yours & C. HILL, Director, Henry Doubleday Research Association, Bocking, Braintree, Essex.

Premises for health insurance conclusions

From Professor B. B. Hundt, Sir, Since delivering my lecture referred to by Kenneth Owen in *The Times* of February 1, my attention has been drawn by Mr G. Basford of BL Technology to an error in my figure for the energy content of petrol. This alters two of my conclusions.

I now accept that an aluminium-bodied car would save at least as much energy in running over its life as consumed in making the aluminium original alloy and therefore should be feasible from an energy stance, though I still believe that the financial economics would not be really attractive to the buyer.

My other conclusion which is modified refers to the long-life car where the figures quoted by Mr Owen should now be modified. I still believe, however, that the improvement in fuel economy necessary for the energy saving in running to outweigh the energy saving in manufacture due to a longer-life car introduction is unlikely to be achieved in practice and the longer-life car is still a very serious contender for energy saving.

Yours faithfully,
B. B. HUNDY, Head of the School of Production Studies, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford, MK43 0AL, February 4.

Bulletin charge is just the start

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Little comfort for the corporate sector

The weekend decision of the steel craft union to accept the latest BSC offer and the vote to return to work at Hadfields set the equity market off on a firm enough note yesterday. Even so, it still seems clear that equities as a whole are not going to make all that much progress until the signals that interest rates can be expected to fall by early spring become a great deal stronger.

Certainly, the latest wholesale price indices offer little comfort to the corporate sector, with the 3½ per cent rise in input prices in January, compared with a 2½ per cent rise in output prices, confirming that profit margins must be continuing under severe pressure. What is worse, of course, is the recent wave of speculative buying on world commodity markets which threaten to keep input prices rising sharply in the months ahead—quite the opposite of what one would normally expect to be happening as economies ease into recession.

As far as the gilt market was concerned the rather discouraging news on wholesale prices was largely offset by the size of the central government surplus (£2,455m) in January. Income tax receipts have been rising particularly strongly as a result of the large rise in average earnings during the financial year.

This, however, is just as well given that the spending sign of the equation is also going to overshoot, probably to give a full year PSBR out-turn in the region of £9,000m. At least fears of a figure appreciably higher than this should now start to recede.

Meanwhile, the market is going to have to put up with at least another week of very tight money market conditions and, of course, this Friday's £450m call on Treasury 12½ per cent 2003-05 "A".

Cons. Cold

Invoking Section 127

The insidious build-up of the overseas holding in Consolidated Gold Fields could well become the sort of *cause célèbre* the City will live to regret unless some effective action is taken quickly. As events are unfurling, the City's much-beloved system of self-regulation is in danger of being shown up as the paper tiger its critics have always argued it was.

And the important difference this time is that it is not one of the many tin-pot companies that have been involved before in driving a wedge in the regulatory mechanism but one of the United Kingdom's largest companies and one of the world's leading mining companies.

Yesterday Goldfields continued to put the pressure on the unidentified shareholders by calling on the Department of Trade to appoint inspectors to investigate the ownership of the company under section 127 of the Companies Act 1948.

This is common procedure under wider DoT investigations but has apparently only been invoked once before in the case of Savoy Hotels over a quarter of a century ago as a separate investigation. Inspectors have the same wide powers as they do under the rest of the Companies Act, including in the last instance recourse to the law.

The fundamental disadvantage, however, is that any DoT investigation comes up against a brick wall if shareholdings are hidden behind nominee accounts in, say, Switzerland. And there is some evidence already from Goldfields share register that Swiss banks have been involved in the buying operation. The DoT does have some sanctions in these cases since it can prevent those blocks of shares which refuse to be identified from exercising their voting rights, can stop them receiving dividends and even participating in rights issues. But that is unlikely to worry this bidder.

The Takeover Panel also argues that its sanctions are strong enough to cope with these situations but the person stalking

Goldfields having spent well over £100m building up its stake is hardly going to be troubled by having its United Kingdom listing removed or having its access to United Kingdom banking facilities circumscribed which is about all the ammunition the Panel can muster.

What is really needed now is some effective action from the Stock Exchange to reinforce company law in the matter of finding out the identity of overseas bidders, while the system of allowing shares to go unregistered for so long will also have to be looked at more closely.

It is a nonsense to argue that this will diminish London's role as an international investment centre—if anything the obvious flouting of the spirit of the rules that is going on at present has already done damage to London.

CompAir

The bid is coming

Bid speculation has raged around CompAir for more than three months. Even so yesterday's leap in the share price from 79p to 96p was almost certainly based on more than faint hopes. So CompAir was duly forced into revealing takeover talks rather



Sir William Mather, chairman of CompAir.

earlier than the group and its advisers, Morgan Grenfell, had planned.

Takeover fever is such, however, that after an inquiry the Stock Exchange will be hard-pressed to prove that yesterday's buyers were doing anything other than jumping on a speculative bandwagon.

Certainly, more than one would-be bidder has been knocking on the door of CompAir's chairman, Sir William Mather, in recent weeks. Among the possibilities suggested in the market are Consolidated Gold Fields, Charter Consolidated, IC Gas and Hawker Siddeley.

The market also expects a price of around 110p a share, which would be a fairly full one, valuing the group at £61m, matching net assets and representing an exit p/e ratio of 16 historically and possibly 12 prospectively.

With profits down from £11.6m to £8.4m CompAir was hard hit last year by the collapse of major export markets in Iran, Nigeria and Iraq. Prospects for recovery, however, are solid if unexciting and the group does command a particularly strong technological niche in the worldwide air compression business.

Whoever emerges as the bidder will undoubtedly argue industrial logic. Charter Consolidated and Consolidated Gold, for instance, could quote CompAir's role as a mining equipment supplier.

To the market, however, it looks no more than a case of a predator taking the opportunity to buy sound United Kingdom assets and earnings in a solid sector. If so, it provides further vindication of the view that engineering companies, in particular, have been brutally exposed as a result of the way share ratings have been depressed by gloom on the immediate trading front, and not all that is likely to worry this bidder.

The Takeover Panel also argues that its sanctions are strong enough to cope with these situations but the person stalking

Business Diary: Welders at work • Sitting targets

An unexpected spin-off of the steel strike could be closer links—possibly amalgamation even—between two unions whose leaders a few months back could not stand to be in the same room together.

I refer of course to Bill Sirs, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Hector Smith's National Union of Blastfurnace men.

Before Christmas a leading ISTD official told "Black Bob" Scholey, BSC's chief executive, the good news was that the steelworkers had sunk their traditional enmity and agreed on something. The bad news was that it was to strike together.

Bad news it may have been for the corporations; good news it could turn out to be for those who favour one union for the steel industry. Mutual suspicion has disappeared in the camaraderie of the industry's first national strike for 53 years. Feelings are said to be "very, very tight, very fraternal" on the picket lines and the strike posters have both unions' names on them.

A big shift of opinion among the ranks and file is one thing, but a shock greater than a bullet dropped on the foot is on the way. The next issue of *Man and Metal*, the ISTD monthly journal, will have Sirs and Smith on the front cover. True, they have been giving joint press conferences, and reporting back to Len Murray jointly after "negotiations" with the BSC—but photographed together...

The steelworkers already represent blastfurnace men in Scotland, and it would make sense for the two unions to continue their new-found unity after the dispute is over.



• Jerry Nathan and Malcolm Perring are the terrible twins of the British furniture business.

They are related neither in family nor in business terms. Nathan makes furniture and Perring sells other people's—but they do have one thing in common.

Both are gluttons for punishment in that they have taken themselves to do what they can to save the fragmented furniture industry both from itself and from others.

The industry enters 1980 with imports exceeding exports in real terms for the first time in perhaps a decade. There is pressure from government to develop expensive and uncomfortable but less flammable upholstery foams. Gordon Borrie's Office of Fair Trading will be checking out the industry's voluntary code of conduct

later this year.

Nathan, chairman of B & I, is chairman and Perring, marketing director of Perring Furnishings, is deputy chairman of the industry's lobby, the Furniture Information Council.

The two men don't always see eye to eye (but then manufacturers and retailers are not supposed to). However, they disagree with the industry's position—causing more friction than with each other.

Perring says the export imbalance would be righted if manufacturers would sell more of what the home market wanted, particularly boxed, self-assembly furniture.

However, if the NSW legislature was happy, the elements were not. A howling westerly wind tore down the reception tent, and ceremonies were therefore conducted in the lee of a couple of buildings.

Nathan claims nannydom by the consumer establishment but is equally mad at dodgy discount traders and those who offer spurious inducements, such as goods at 25 per cent off after-sale price".

Hugh Stephenson

Paying the price of disappointed expectations

Mrs Thatcher would be justified if she was reflecting bitterly this week on the fickle ways of public opinion and what are loosely called commentators in the media.

The way in which, over the weekend, the premature obituary notices on the Thatcher experiment appeared in paper after paper, contrast strangely with the singular lack of such criticism in the months since she led her party to an electoral triumph.

If the policies that have been associated with her are wrong, they have been wrong from the start. If her policies are right, why are politicians, commentators and the rest running away from them at the first whiff of a shotgun?

From the start Mrs Thatcher has had two presentation difficulties. If you come to office determined not only to do things your way, but equally determined that your way is going to be quite different from anything that has happened in the past 45 years then it is necessary to trumpet the message and the hope aloud.

But, if you trumpet so loud, it is as certain as night follows day that the performance will fall short of the advertisement. It is usually wiser to promise only what you are certain you can deliver. Your stock then rises when

you achieve not only what you promised, but something extra as well.

That option was not available to Mrs Thatcher and her intellectual advisers, who had to go back to the drawing board of their revolutionary grand design in order to get a hold from the start of the policy making machine.

In the past month Mrs Thatcher has been paying the price of those disappointed expectations. For the fact is that problems and attitudes so deeply ingrained as those of the British economy are not going to be changed overnight by some British equivalent of Dr Ludwig Erhard's West German "economic miracle".

Her second presentation problem has been one of time-scale. Opinions have differed widely as to whether and, if so, how far the performance of the British economy over the years has been retarded by state regulation and interference in the free functioning of markets; by high government spending in relation to the total size of the economy; and by high marginal tax rates and a quarter of a century of intrusive exchange controls. What, however, can be said with certainty is that the reduction or removal of all these elements in the system will not produce an improvement in economic performance so instant and dramatic that it will show up, to a measurable

extent, in the main economic indicators, or in the growth rate of the gross domestic product in year one, or even year two.

This much would be obvious to any practical man of affairs. He would know instinctively that it always takes longer than you think at the beginning to turn round companies that have settled slowly into a rut over decades, certainly years rather than months. A reasonably short timetable of politics requires evidence that new policies are working within months.

Indeed a large part of Mrs Thatcher's present problem lies in the fact that her more and less enthusiastic supporters are taking the view that she has used up the bulk of the store of goodwill with which any new prime minister is endowed after a sweeping election victory.

It is without achieving a correspondingly substantial number of her key objectives.

A large part of the problem centres on the age old human characteristic that people are prepared to support ends, but unprepared to support the associated means.

For example, prior to the last year Mrs Thatcher might be forgiven for thinking that she had widespread support from the City and industry for the general proposition that the first and overriding priority of economic policy should be the battle against inflation

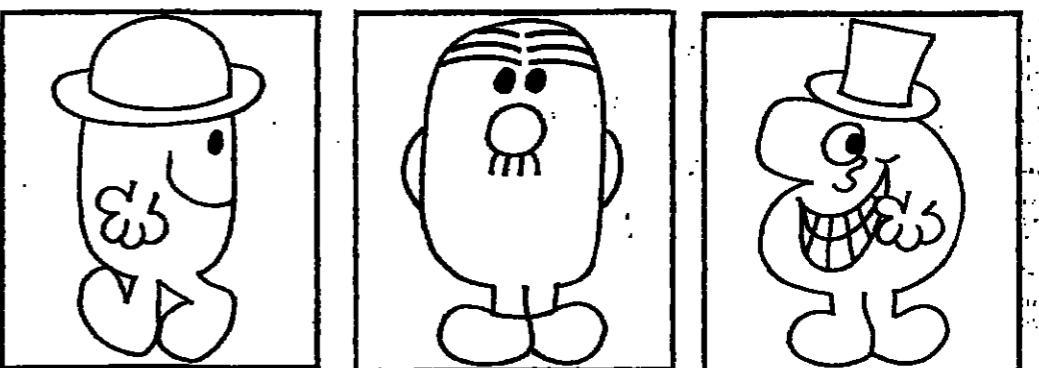
and that the main issue would say sole effective weapon in this fight was the control of the money supply. So much for the principle.

But in practice the self-same supporters of that policy would also accept the present levels of interest rates were inappropriate; that more money should be spent on defence, that any further cuts in Whitehall aid to industry should be resisted, that the Government's non-handling of the steel strike has been a national catastrophe and so on.

Most of these detailed attitudes conflict with Mrs Thatcher's experimental grand design, but that is a concession that many seem unwilling to make.

In the normal course of events it would not much matter to a government that it was running into a spate of heavy weather so soon in the lifetime of a Parliament. With her majority, no external force can make Mrs Thatcher go to the country before the moment of her choice.

But Mrs Thatcher's problem is deeper because the majority of her Cabinet and the overwhelming majority of senior civil servants have from the start been in a state of suspended disbelief about the basic policy. The political pressures for a change of policy arising because of the disbelief is no longer so suspended.



© by Roger Hargreaves

The 'art' of merchandising

Mr Men are 10 times more popular than Sooty. For every Womble in your local shop you are likely to find four Paddington Bears, The Incredible Hulk, larger than Mickey Mouse, and Superman still pack more sales punch than Wonder Woman in every confectioner, tobacconist, newsagents (CTNs) in the land.

These are some of the findings from a survey on character-based products recently completed by Retail Audits, a market research company.

Investigators called at 1,700 CTNs, stationers, toy and specialist card shops, carefully counting up the number of product lines stocked which were promoted by the various Mr Men characters.

From their results they were able to compile a rating table in which some of the old established favourites like Walt Disney find themselves overtaken by some newcomers such as Star Wars—which may prove to have less lasting appeal.

No one has yet attempted to put a total value on character merchandising, but it seems probable that Britons now spend over £200m a year on goods sponsored by characters who range from Action Man to Zorro.

Evidence gathered last year by the Price Commission suggests that already something approaching one quarter of the toy trade is sponsored by characters under licence.

The commission estimated that in 1979-80 royalty payments would represent 1.8 per cent of the value of total toy sales, a proportion increased by nearly a third in the past three years because of the increasing popularity of new toys incorporating characters or themes established by television, cinema, books or greeting cards.

Character merchandising goes far beyond the nursery and playroom. It plays an increasingly important part in selling books, stationery, groceries, sweets and ices, clothing, footwear, pottery, electrical goods and even kitchenware.

Mr Men, originally created for a series of children's books by Mr Roger Hargreaves, a former director of an advertising agency, are now on 250 products in the United Kingdom market, covering everything from wallpaper to yoghurt.

Over the past three years Mr Happy and his 38 simple outline friends have helped to sell more than £40m worth of goods in Britain, not including the books, which are likely to sell 10 million copies this year alone.

Mr Men are now on the verge of an international career. Licences have already been sold in Spain, Germany, France and the United States.

One of the few very successful characters created specifically with character merchandising in mind is Hollie Hobby, who originated with Celebration Arts in Corby. Hollie was invented to characterize the company's greetings card and

children's stationery lines. There can be some character marketing cash-in to almost anything. But the telephone bird, for instance, earned the Post Office £45,000 in royalties last year besides any good the advertisements he was created for might have done.

ATV, which sells licences on him for the Post Office, was handicapped by its owners' industrial disputes. Otherwise, the Post Office says, he would have recouped £125,000.

In a broad sense character merchandising dates back to the Assyrian rulers and Roman emperors who had their heads stamped on the coinage to give additional authority to the product.

Over the past three years Mr Happy and his 38 simple outline friends have helped to sell more than £40m worth of goods in Britain, not including the books, which are likely to sell 10 million copies this year alone.

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The right product on the right can boost sales by anything from 20 to 50 per cent. Royalty rates are usually 6 per cent on the wholesale price of the product, though some of the big licensors occasionally go as high as 10 per cent.

The point is that the royalty payments may well be more than offset by reduced research and advertising expenditure. They offer the possibility of a more assured market, but there are of course also risks.

To obtain exclusive rights on characters agreements have to be made at an early stage, often before the character offered has any proved popularity at all. The risks are particularly high with tie-ups to feature films. The film may simply fail-taking with it all the character merchandisers' hopes of success.

Robin Young

THE TOP TEN

- 1. Mr Men
- 2. Paddington Bear
- 3. Hollie Hobby
- 4. Muppets
- 5. Star Wars
- 6. Snoopy
- 7. Walt Disney
- 8. The Incredible Hulk
- 9. Superman
- 10. Mickey Mouse

Cleveland factpack

Putting them in place. A detailed map of Cleveland County showing the available industrial land and major roads.

Cleveland junior. A fivesided impression of the county, its industrial scene, key worker welcome, family, recreational and scenic attractions.

Summaries of essentials. Financial incentives; labour, industrial sites; advance factories, office space, communications, utilities... and more.

What others think. FT and Daily Express reprints with independent views of life in the County and its future prospects.

A musical welcome to Cleveland by the Fettlers. A free record of two songs dealing with the County and the welcome it offers.

Statistics at a glance. A handy reference for quick assessment of Cleveland including national comparisons.

Financial Times. Looking for... Cleve...

Your first move in the move towards expansion

To the County Planning Officer. Gurney House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 1GT. Tel: (0642) 248155. Please send me the factpack

Your next move will be to come and see for yourself. We'll be glad to show you around and to speed your way to meeting the people who matter.

NAME _____

POSITION _____

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

New confidence in equities, but gilts languish

Yesterday investors seemed to have decided that inflation was bad for gilt-edged but good for shares. At the opening gilts tried to go better on thoughts of further foreign buying, but when it failed to appear they went easier. Another damper on sentiment was the call this Friday of £45 on the ex-long-term Treasury 12½ per cent 2003-05. This will absorb £450m odd, at a time when the money market will probably still be tight.

The third blow to sentiment was the increase in factory-gate and raw material prices in January. Factory-gate prices rose 2½ per cent, the highest since January 1977. Raw material prices were as much as 32 per cent up, making a climb in the full year to January of 27½ per cent. Disquiet at this evidence of accelerating inflation outweighed the reasonably good reception given to the January draft of the Central Government Borrowing Requirement.

Tax repayments normally ensure a surplus in January, but repayments of £2,455m against £1,433m in January 1979 were deemed sizable.

At the close, losses of up to 1½% were seen across the board, as in Treasury 9½ per cent 1983, at £84, in shorts, and Exchequer 12 per cent 1999-02 to £85 in longs.

Equities however, began the new account in a much more confident mood, with some sizable gains reported in most of the major sectors.

The source of this new found confidence came with the news that the private steel company Hadfield's had agreed to return to work along with 70,000 workers at BSC who had accepted the 14 per cent offer. Oil shares too followed through on Friday's enthusiasm, as investors clamoured to buy anything related to oil in the belief that the oil price was about to scale new heights. Gold shares also showed

further interest as the bullion price climbed \$14.5 to \$712.5 on the latest setback in the condition of President Tito, and further nervousness over Afghanistan.

Only when the Wholesale Price Index was announced did the market turn a little easier, as buyers became nervous and the profit-takers moved in—although not in any large numbers.

As a result, after gathering strength throughout most of the

day the FT Index began to look easier at the close when it finished 8.5 up at 469.9 after being 9.4 higher at 1pm.

ICI was the main bright spot among leading interest industrialists, where it rose 14p to 359. It was the main bright spot among leading interest industrialists, where it rose 14p to 359. It was the main bright spot among leading interest industrialists, where it rose 14p to 359.

However, despite some good rises in the oil shares surrounding ICI failed to spill over into the rest of the blue chip. Fison improved 5p to 289, and rises of 4p were noted in Lucas at 249p and Unilever at 460p. Glaxo in its new form, following the 1-for-1 scrip, finished the day at 250p but BAT fell 15p to 245p on fears of a harsh budget.

In the meantime, the most favourable gains were witnessed among oil shares. Among the majors BP rose 16p to 410p, and the new 14p to 410p, while Shell improved 14p to 389p and Ultramar put on a similar amount at 484p. Second-liners too joined in the spree although profit taking did clip 5p from Lasmo at 500 following recent bid speculation. But Aran Energy climbed 16p to 360p, closely followed by Associated News 8p to 312p, and I.C. Gas 15p to 772p. Only Cowdys Selection Trust expanded 44p to 764p.

On the bid front CompAir, a speculative stock of late, jumped 16p on news that the company had received a bid approach. Some gossips had connected it with Coms Gold although most market opinion favoured I.C. Gas.

S. Hoffnung rose 14p to 89p on news of an offer from Burns Philip valued at £16m from Burns Philip.

Shares of Godfrey Davis were suspended at 141p awaiting an announcement, with most observers anticipating a bid. Rothschild Investment Trust, up 7p to 314p, holds a large stake but as thought unlikely to be making a bid. Most feel the approach will come from one of the big trading groups either Lasmo up 5p to 106p or Inchcape up 8p to 380p.

Nevertheless, it is enough to send a ripple of excitement through the motor sector. Caffyns led the way, leaping 25p to 205p. H. Perry improved 5p to 156p and Smith

Brooks 4p to 35p.

Rubbers came in for further support helped by more bid rumours.

Equity turnover on February 9, was £153,034m (21,113 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Lasmo, RITZ, Imperial Continental Cast Steel, Consolidated Gold Fields, ICI, Tricem, Plessey, National Westminster, Western Mining BP, North Kalgoorlie, S. & W. Berks, BAT and GEC.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown

pre-tax and earnings are net.

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay date	Year's
Int'l Fins	£m	£m	£m per share	pence	date	total
African Lakes Crp (F)	9.85(8.0)	1.31(1.24)	61.28(76.14)	4.4(3.6)	4.4(4)	—
Coronet Indst Inds (F)	11.1(8.8)	0.58(0.51)	43.6(28.5)	3.0(0.4)	31/3	—
Ladies Prd Otrwr (F)	7.9(6.4)	1.1(1.0)	8.9(7.1)	2.0(1.20)	—	3.4(1.7)
Man Ship Canal (F)	23.2(24.5)	1.08(1.51)	25.1(36.5)	10.8(10.8)	8/4	18.33(17.0)
Maray Castell Crst (I)	—(—)	2.68(1.75)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)
Maray Castell Crst (F)	—(—)	2.17(1.83)	1.6(1.45)	2.4/2	1.0(1.7)	—(—)
Rehns Crp (I)	12.75(9.3)	1.24(0.45)	12.9(4.7)	3.2(2.0)	—(—)	—(—)

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Currently being carried out by the Office of Fair Trading, which has to decide whether or not to make a referral to the Monopolies Commission. However, it cannot move until it receives SEC clearance and this could now be delayed for at least another fortnight.

There is a growing feeling in the stock market that the prospectus filed with the SEC may use the bid move as a plank to take a closer look at the whole issue of broker's links with underwriters within Lloyd's.

If so, the takeover move could be blocked for up to nine months. Reflecting the doubts, Bowring's shares closed last night at 136p—around 30p below the bid value.

Meanwhile, the SEC delay is holding up the investigation

of another bout of speculative buying in Consolidated Gold Fields provided traded options with another busy time yesterday. Total contracts leapt from Friday's figure of 719 to 1,187 of which Cons. Gold attracted 240. BP came in for further heavy interest, on the back of the latest surge in oil shares, with 186 contracts while RTZ inspired the day's largest amount with 273 contracts. In RTZ it was the February 420p series which attracted the most interest as the share price leapt up 23p to 447p.

Traditional options also saw some active interest with a sprinkling of food groups and the usual oil looking attractive. Puts were arranged in Premier and North Kalgoorlie and doubles were arranged in ICI and William Whittingham.

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Options

Harmony 5½ to 21½ and UCI 5½ to 12.

In the London financials, Consolidated Gold Fields came in for further speculative buying rising 23p to 521p and further boosted by the news of an official inquiry into the identity of the mystery buyer which might account for 25 per cent of the equity. R.T.Z. was another firm spot, rising by a similar amount, to 447p while Selection Trust expanded 44p to 764p.

Speculation and comment was good for further rises in Associated Sprayers 5p to 63p, Needlers 4p to 57p while a half-time loss clipped 8p from British Cargo Airlines at 45p and a weakening on half-time profits hit Sound Diffusion 12p to 53p.

Electronics had another active

day as the market waited for Racial to make its next move and rising 6p to 220p while it did so. Decca ordinary improved 26p to 593p in anticipation of a further bid and the "A" 5p to 444p. GEC remained consistent, meanwhile, rising 30p to 377p.

Some attention again spilled over into Ferranti, after some bullish weekend comment, rising 25p to 512p which in turn pushed Plessey 79 up at 147p.

Engineers were in a good mood helped by the latest events in the steel strike, but some rises were axed by a shortage of stock. Metal Box expanded 12p to 260p along with Tubex 6p to 295p and GKN 4p to 267p.

Banks were wanted ahead of the dividend announcement session. Barclays 12p to 443p with National Westminster 16p to 313p both 10p higher, while Midland edged ahead 8p to 373p. In Financials Alloyd & Smithers gained 10p to 256p and Smith & Krebs 4p to 35p.

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Burns Philp surprises Hoffnung with £15.9m bid

By Philip Robinson

Australian conglomerate Burns Philp yesterday launched a surprise £15.9m takeover bid for United Kingdom-based S Hoffnung & Co, which gets 90 per cent of profits and sales from Australia.

The bid came out of the blue for the Hoffnung directors who were told half an hour after the formal takeover statement had been given to the Stock Exchange.

Hoffnung's director, Mr Timothy Cohen, said: "In first we knew was when Burns rang us at 10 am and told us about it". Last night Hoffnung advised shareholders to take no action. The board are due to meet this afternoon to discuss the 80p a share cash offer from Burns.

But a fight could be on the cards. Mr Cohen said: "We can't say what action we will take, but the company has already fought off one bid and irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer from investment trusts represented by Morris Johnstone, which has five holdings totalling 9.4 per cent.

Hoffnung's share price

jumped 14p yesterday to close

last night at 89p. Details of an offer to holders of the 12 per cent Commonwealth Overseas

Loan Stock 1985/90 have not

yet been disclosed, but will be included in the formal offer.

The fight is likely to centre around Hoffnung's profits performance. Burns' Australian general manager, Mr Terry Thompson, said: "We think there is a lot of industrial logic in this move and we reckon we can make more profits from their operations than they can".

Last year Hoffnung's pre-tax profits came down from £2.7m to £1.8m. Below the line these dropped around 60 per cent to £673,000 leaving the total dividend, unchanged, for the third year running, uncovered.

On 1979 earnings, the offer price gives Hoffnung an exit price-earnings ratio of 20. But taking earnings from the previous year, the ratio comes down to 9.2. For the half year to September, Hoffnung paid an unchanged interim gross dividend of 2.212p on profits down from £7.8m to £5.7m.

Burns is an international group with interests in distribution, trading, finance, manufacturing, plantations and mining, and sales of \$454.2m and profits last year of \$42.6m.

It is in the manufacturing of plastic mouldings, the dry retail chain and the distribution operations which Burns say are similar to Hoffnung.

Ship Canal group down 10pc

By Rosemary Unsworth

For the second year running Manchester Ship Canal Company made virtually no profit in the second half, despite an encouraging start in the first six months.

Pre-tax profits fell by 10 per cent from £1.5m to £1.7m while turnover improved slightly from £24.5m to £25.2m in the year ending December 31, 1979. This compares with a 14 per cent increase in the first half, on almost unchanged

turnover of £13.3m. But the Port of Manchester operator has maintained the final dividend at 15.5p gross, making with the slightly increased dividend of 10.7p, a total of 26.2p gross.

The company's problems in the second half were a reflection of the downturn in international trade and inflation, according to Mr Donald Redford, chairman. The difficulties were compounded by pay rises, which were not matched by increased rates and which re-

sulted in eroded profits in the second six months, he said.

In addition, the volume of oil going through the port slackened, hitting operating revenue as it comprises the bulk of the company's sales. But the dredging expenditure on the Eastern Approach channel, which played a significant part in 1978's second half problems, has been reduced by a third this year.

The current year has started a little busier, Mr Redford added.

Early finish at Chiswell St as BP talks go on

By Philip Robinson

Trafalgar House and Whitbread joint developers of the brewer's former headquarters in Chiswell Street, London—have stepped up construction on the site to complete one of the two office blocks eight weeks ahead of schedule in August.

The move is being viewed as further evidence that potential buyers British Petroleum are near to clinching a deal. Privately they have indicated that they would like to begin fitting out the offices by August.

But a spokesman for BP said last night: "We are still negotiating. Nothing has been settled."

British Petroleum have been thought to be the buyers of the two office blocks for some months. No price has been quoted by either Trafalgar House or Whitbread, but the purchase price is thought to make it one of the largest property transactions in the United Kingdom, at around £100 million.

Mr Dennis Dickinson, managing director of Shire Technical Services, the Whitbread subsidiary managing the site, said: "We started accelerating the work on the development last week. It does not indicate that we have sealed on a buyer. No deal has been concluded."

"We have spoken to a number of people, but the people who are at the moment most likely to buy are British Petroleum who would like occupation as early as practical."

He said that the working week on the site has been increased from 50 hours to 51 hours a week which involves spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in overtime payments.

"We have taken a commercial decision in paying this overtime, people will doubtless speculate on the reasons why", Mr Dickinson said.

A statement on the sale of the site could be made within four months.

It is known that BP, whose present office in Moor Lane in the City of London overlooks the site, is looking for space to house some of its headquarters staff, which is reported to approach 4,000 people.

At present BP occupies space in Britannia House and in two adjoining office blocks. It is understood that Britannia House would remain an operational centre if any deal went through.

Pre-tax profits for Deborah up 19pc

On turnover 48 per cent higher at £9.6m, pre-tax profits of Deborah Services rose by 19 per cent to £1.48m in the six months to Sept. 30. While pre-tax losses of the special products division more than doubled to £172,000 (against £78,000), profits of scaffolding, contracting and building equipment were up from £502,000 to £816,000. Those of the insulation engineers section were virtually unchanged at £102,000, compared with £101,000. Mr A. Britton, the chairman, declares that "the outlook is good" and he believes that last year's results (£1.2m pre-tax) will be exceeded. Deborah's shares are traded on the over-the-counter market made by M. J. H. Nightingale and Co.

Hawker Siddeley finance chief

Mr P. C. Franks has been made non-executive director of

Law Report February 11 1980

Motorways: limited scope of local inquiries

Bushell and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment

Before: Lord Diplock, Viscount Dilkorne, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullyboden and Lord Lane

[Speeches delivered February 7]

The decision to construct a national network of motorways, necessarily in stages, is an administrative decision and government policy and is not open to question. Local inquiries held to receive local objections to proposed schemes for a particular stretch of motorway. The method of inquiry used in the government decision concerned to forecast future traffic needs is also an element in determining government policy, though it is open to change with changing circumstances and expertise. A local inquiry is not a court of law; and an inquiry holding a local inquiry, though it must be fair, has a discretion to refuse cross-examination by objectors seeking to challenge the validity of the forecast method in use in order to show that the proposed road is not needed.

The House of Lords, Lord Edmund-Davies dissenting, allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Temperton) which had set aside an order of Sir Douglas Frank (sitting as a deputy of the Bench Judge) (*The Times*, December 10, 1977; *76 LGR 460*), made on the application under Schedule 2 to the Highways Act, 1959, of Mr. John Brunt and Mr. Terence James Brunt, two objectors to proposed schemes for stretches of two motorways, and had quashed the decision of the minister to carry out the schemes.

The draft schemes, for the M2 (Bromsgrove) and M40 (Warwick) sections, were published by the minister in 1972.

Mr. Bushell and Mr. Brunt (inter alios), who would be adversely affected, objected. A public inquiry was held on 100 days between June, 1973, and January, 1974, to inquire into evidence of traffic forecasts given by witnesses for the Department of the Environment. The evidence was based on a book (*The Red Book*) published by the department and then used as its standard basic reference for assessing future traffic growth.

The inspector refused to allow the objectors to make representations about the Red Book forecasts, though he allowed evidence to be called as to their accuracy. After the inquiry but before the inspector had reported to the minister, the department issued new "design year" forecasts showing that the existing roads could take much more traffic than had been estimated.

In June, 1975, the inspector submitted his report and recommended that the order for the schemes be made. In April, 1976, the objectors, who in September, 1974, had for the first time sought to be represented, sought to make representations to the minister based on more up-to-date traffic flow data. The department replied that if the new information led the minister to disagree with the inspector's recommendations, the objectors would have the opportunity to comment on it. In August, 1976, the minister made orders authorizing the schemes.

The Court of Appeal allowed the objectors' appeal on the ground that there had been a failure of natural justice in disallowing the cross-examination at the inquiry and in not reopening the inquiry on limited grounds, in accordance with the schemes.

Mr. Geoffrey Rippin, QC, Mr. Konrad Schleman and Mr. David Holgate for the minister, Lord Gifford and Mr. Andrew Arden for the objectors.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the two proposed schemes were intended to form an integral part of the national motorways network. The procedure to be followed by the minister in making schemes under section 11 of the Highways Act was in Part II Schedule 9 provided for in the lodgment of a petition by persons appearing to the minister to be affected by the proposed scheme and required him, if such objections were not withdrawn, to order a local inquiry.

The Act itself said nothing more about the scope of the inquiry or procedure at a local inquiry. It gave the minister, under paragraph 10, the minister, before reaching his decision, had to consider the objections not withdrawn and the report of the inspector who had held the local inquiry before he laid up his mind to exercise his discretion to withdraw the scheme.

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The Chancellor so found when trying to decree a faculty in the service of a petition by the vicar and churchwardens of St. Andrew's Church, Dearnley, Littleborough, in the Diocese of Manchester. The seeking authorization in (1) the removal of a wooden folding tripod and by a cross and candlesticks from the high altar; (2) the erection of a wooden canopy six feet above the altar; (3) the provision of two wood candlesticks; (4) the provision of a rail and by the altar to carry a curtain behind the altar; and (5) the double glazing of the east window. The petition was unanswered.

The petitioners in person.

CHANCELLOR SPAFFORD said that the petitioners had a number of uses of "electric candles" in a church. The Manchester Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churchers were of the opinion that aesthetically electrical light was not necessary as an alternative to a burning light, and that the candles to be deeply offensive in a building dedicated to the worship of God. But the Vicar of St. Andrew's felt that the symbolism of the Light of the World would be provided adequately by electric candles.

Candles with visible "living" flames could provide valuable light in the worshiping community which electric candles would not so fully satisfy. Electric lights were lawful forms of illumination in churches

and could carry a limited symbolic meaning. But, normally, such light should not be in a disguised form, for example, imitation candles. If only because, so far as reasonably possible, the genuine and best should be used in the worship of God. An article presenting to be other than it in fact would be an imitation or "phony" and, therefore, not the genuine and best.

Nevertheless, there could be cause for the approval of electric candles. An objector, who was where the parish wished to have candles of some sort as an aid to worship and either reasonably considered that the use of wax candles created a fire risk, or could not afford wax candles, and the smoke from them created undesirable cleaning problems.

The petition in the diocese was that the rector of the church had been dedicated and placed behind the altar. Unfortunately, rain had penetrated through cracks in the floor and rotted the timber. The vicar had been told by a firm of joiners that it would cost "a thousand or two" to repair. In the face of that situation it had been agreed to apply for a faculty to replace the rector with a curtain. In order to eliminate the penetration of rain, the east window was to be double glazed. The vicar considered that there would be a fire risk in relation to the new curtain if wax candles in the existing brass candlesticks were used. Hence the proposal to substitute electric candles.

In addition to causing the water to leak down from the roof, apart from the cleaning problem in the church, the dust might possibly fall into the chalice when it was on the altar and the pall was removed. The canopy over the altar was proposed to prevent any fall of material into consecrated wine.

Since the hearing a member of the diocesan advisory committee, Mr. Norman Nightingale, an architect,

had reported on the rector, setting out the repairs needed, the cost of which he put in the region of £250. As far as the court was aware, the parish could afford that, and double glazing of the east window should remove any further risk to the rector. Accordingly, it was not essential to remove the cross and candlesticks, substituting in their stead the curtain and electric candles. Further, the electric candles, when lit, were not the genuine and best articles for use in worship, and no exception to their use had been made.

In fact, all the alterations proposed in the petition had been carried out about two years ago, without any faculty, in blatant breach of the Faculty Jurisdiction Measure. The vicar had also asserted that neither the parochial church council nor the petitioners had any wish or intent to do the Measure but had done what they did by way of a concession to see whether or not they liked it.

When the vicar in the diocese was asked to put on an alteration, the proper course was to ask the registrar for a temporary permission to do so. Such consent could be coupled with a time limit. In addition the consent would be dependent on the diocesan advisory committee being informed of the proposal so that

able delays; and (2) the amount of traffic that in the absence of the new stretch would be using the road in the design year those existing roads which were not a motorway was intended to relieve.

The department's methods for cross-examination were kept in the minister's own control and revised from time to time and published, the most relevant publication to the objectors' "Traffic prediction for rural roads" in 1968. It described the method used for predicting the growth of traffic up to the design year on the roads with the M42, Bromsgrove and M40 Warwick were intended to relieve. It was recognized that predictions were subject to margins of error as high as 10 to 20 per cent.

If a decision to determine priorities in the construction of future stretches of the national network of motorways by reference to their expected traffic needs in the design year 15 years ahead could properly be described as government policy, as his Lordship thought it could, the definition of "traffic needs" as used in the methods described in the Red Book, and the department's publication on rural roads could be regarded as an essential element in the policy. But whether policy or methodology, the method of the methods adopted was clearly not suitable for investigation as an individual inquiry by an inspector whose consideration of the matter was limited by the material presented to him at the particular inquiry. It would be right, however, with this kind of material, to give a positive recommendation to the minister that the method of predicting traffic needs throughout the country should be changed, and it would be an unwise minister who acted in reliance on it.

The objectors, including the two respondents, were allowed to voice their criticisms. The inspector used to predict traffic needs for the purposes of the two schemes and call such expert evidence as they wanted in support of their criticisms. But they were not allowed to cross-examine the department's representatives on the limitations of the methods of forecasting traffic elicited in the course of cross-examination would not have served any useful purpose. There was no denial of natural justice or unfairness.

Lord Diplock would add that the procedure for making compulsory purchase orders in respect of land needed had not yet been put in place. Meanwhile the minister, in his view, was entitled to defer his decision until after that had been done. So the respondents failed on that ground too. The schemes were validly made by the minister in 1972 and the appeal should be allowed.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12 1980

House of Lords

Legal Appointments

Legal Assistant

London
Up to £6,000

A vacancy has arisen for a legal assistant in the Social Affairs Legal Policy Department which deals with CBI's policy on industrial relations legal matters and race and sex discrimination. The emphasis of the work is on research and longer-term policy on legal aspects of industrial relations and involves the preparation of papers for the relevant CBI committees. In addition the person appointed will have a special responsibility for CBI's work on equal opportunities. A further part of the job is in connection with our advisory role; the person appointed must be able to deal

with members' enquiries both by telephone and letter.

Applications are invited from law graduates, preferably with a professional qualification, who have a special interest in industrial relations. The ability to express oneself well in writing is particularly important.

Salary will be within the range £4,500-£6,000 according to age, qualifications and experience.

For application form, please contact Sue Bridgett, Personnel Division, CBI, 27 Trafalgar Street, London SW1H 9LP. (Tel: No. 01-930 6711).

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Britain's Business Voice

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Applications are invited for these posts in the office of the Prosecuting Solicitor in Exeter.

Senior Prosecuting Solicitor

Salary £8,316-£9,534

You should be a solicitor with extensive knowledge and experience of criminal law and advocacy. A car allowance will be paid, and there are schemes for assisting in certain circumstances with car purchase, removal and lodgings expenses.

Assistant Prosecuting Solicitor

Salary £6,264-£7,908

Whilst experience is desirable, consideration will be given if you are a recently admitted solicitor interested in advocacy. A car allowance will be paid, and there are schemes for assisting in certain circumstances with car purchase, removal and lodgings expenses.

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FINE WINES, SPIRITS AND VINTAGE PORT
Cat. 50p

Wednesday 14th February at 11 a.m.
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Cat. (12 illus.) 70p

Thursday 14th February at 11 a.m.
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Cat. (3 illus.) 50p

Friday 15th February at 10 a.m.
ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS
and at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH FURNITURE, TEA CADDIES,
BOXES AND WORKS OF ART Cat. (2 illus.) £2.25

Monday 18th February and following day at 11 a.m.
PAINTED BOOKS Cat. £1.30

Monday 18th February at 2.30 p.m.
at the Royal Antiques Society Galleries,
26 Conduit Street, London W1
ANTIQUES AND PRIMITIVE WORKS OF
ART, ISLAMIC, TIBETAN, NEPALESE,
INDIAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN ART
Cat. 65p

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Rainbow, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5TG
Telephone: (0865) 26277

Tuesday 13th February at 10 a.m.
CERAMICS Cat. £1

Tuesday 13th February at 2.15 p.m.
18th AND 19th CENTURY FURNITURE Cat. £1.50

Wednesday 20th February at 10 a.m.
GEORGIAN, VICTORIAN AND MODERN
SILVER Cat. £1.20

Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms or by post from a Merrington Road, London SW1 1RG. Telephone: (01) 387 3173.

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Friday 15th February at 10.30 a.m. at Belgrave.
A Right cold-painted bronze and ivory figure, 34.5 cm.

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20 Bleicherweg, CH-8022, Zurich

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Thursday 13th February at 4 p.m. and following two
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FINE JEWELS Illus. Cat. £1.75

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19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB
Telephone: (01) 235 4311

Wednesday 13th February at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART,
SCULPTURE, RUGS AND TEXTILES
Cat. (43 illus.) £9.00

Thursday 14th February at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
JAPANESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART
Cat. (24 illus.) £4.25

Friday 15th February at 10.30 a.m.
DECORATIVE ARTS INCLUDING ART
NOUVEAU AND ART DECO Cat. (75 illus.) £2.45

Tuesday 19th February at 11 a.m.
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND
WATERCOLOURS Cat. (79 illus.) £1.10

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Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AJ
Telephone: (0782) 3851

Tuesday 13th February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
CLOCKS, WATCHES AND MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS: TOYS, DOLLS AND
COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Wednesday 13th February at 10.30 a.m.
SELECTED PAINTINGS AND MINIATURES
Illus. Cat. £1.20

Tuesday 19th February at 10.30 a.m.
FURNITURE AND EFFECTS

Wednesday 20th February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
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Sotheby Mak van Waay B.V.

102 Rokin, 1012 Amsterdam

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Tuesday 13th February and following eight days
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PAINTINGS, CHINESE, JAPANESE AND
EUROPEAN PORCELAIN AND POTTERY,
CLOCKS AND FURNITURE Illus. Cat. £2

Wednesday 20th February at 10.30 a.m.
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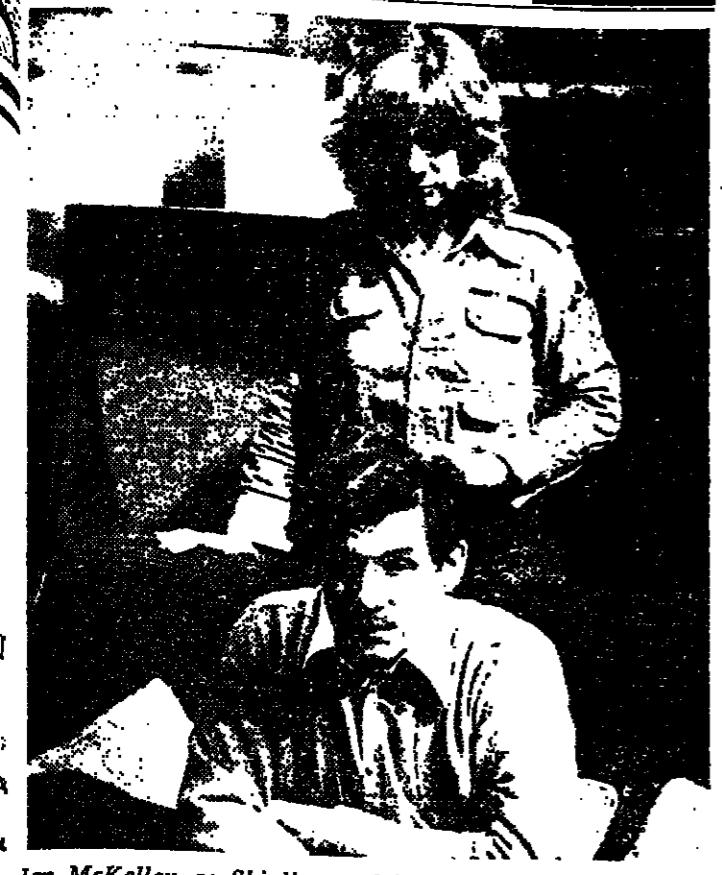
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FURNITURE AND EFFECTS

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PAINTINGS, SILVER AND PLATE
Illus. Cat. £1.20

Sotheby King and Chasemore

Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20

PERSONAL CHOICE

Ian McKellen as Skipton and Kate Coleridge as Susie in a scene from *Dying Day*, ITV 8.00 (see below).

For some reason which I have never been able to understand, television producers have always loved a debate—and so much the better if it involves a studio audience and/or you the viewer. It never seems to matter that these affairs generally collapse under the weight of raised voices, often with the chairman shouting loudest of all. As if *Question Time* (BBC 1, 11.02) were not enough for one night, we are now to be treated to *Thames Debate* (Thames, 11.40), in which *Lewy Gardner* will fill the television version of the role created by *Dick Taverne* in radio's *You the Jury*. It will be a more formal gathering than *Question Time*, with reasoned (though perhaps not reasonable) argument from two speakers and a vote by the assembled cross-section. Indeed *Thames Debate* will get the best of both worlds, for the viewers are invited to vote, too. This evening's motion, proposed by *Tony MP Nicholas Scott*, is that "Conservative Industrial Relations Work". Predictably, a Labour stalwart, *Eric Varley*, opposes. Is this sort of thing really what television is for?

It is not unusual for children's drama series to appeal as much to adults. Part of the reason for this is that a good part—such as last year's *Treasure Island* with *Alfred Burke* as Long John—brings out the child in us, while the other part is that children's writers appear to credit their audiences with some intelligence, which is more than can be said for the authors of certain series for adults. The sort of children's programme I mean is superbly exemplified by *Grange Hill* (BBC 1, 1.15); the writer, *Phil Redmond* brilliantly captures school life through both his pupils and his teachers. The bullies, the toadies, the terrors—they're all in evidence. And as a bonus there are some sharp observations on contemporary society.

Anthony Skipton—neek, methodical, living alone in darkest suburbia since his wife left him—is accosted by a man on a train who appears to be a naturalist and insists on playing some wildlife tape recordings. When the naturalist detaches, he leaves behind one tape, which Skipton takes home and plays. The tape tells our hero that he will shortly be murdered. Terror ensues: does Skipton believe it will and will anyone else believe it? Such is the opening of *Dying Day*, the new *Armchair Thriller* (ITV, 8.00). Ian McKellen plays Skipton. "I knew," says writer *John Bowen*, "that the part was going to need a very special actor." It certainly has one. My problem is that the second episode is not until Thursday.

This evening's radio highlight is undoubtedly *All That Fall*, *Samuel Beckett's* play specially written for the medium (Radio 3, 7.30).

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by David Sinclair

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.45 am Open University: *Perceiving a Wilderness*, 7.05 Chemistry of Carbon Compounds; 7.30 *Meet the Earth and the Moon*. Close down at 7.55. 9.35 For Schools: *Out of the Past*; 9.55 *Maths-in-a-box*; 10.15 *Look and Read*; 10.28 *Resource*; 11.00 *1980: The Year in Words*; 11.17 *Television Club*; 11.38 *Design by Five*; 12.05 pm *General Studies* (The Silicon Factor). Close down at 12.30.

1.00 *Postbox*; 1.05 *Weather*.

1.00 *Pebble Mill at One*: Includes advice on legal, financial and medical matters from Dr David Delvin. *Put Patch and Vincent* (see *Personal Choice*).

1.45 *Trumpton*: *Puppet series* (1).

2.00 *You and Me*: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (c).

2.14 *For Schools*: *Colleges*; 2.30 *English*.

Last episode of *Julius Caesar* from BBC-TV. *Shakespeare* series first shown on BBC 2. Close down at 3.00.

3.35 *Deirdra*: *Starad: Learning Welsh*.

3.45 *Play School*: today's story is *Sam's Woolly Hat*, by *Dorothy Edwards*.

4.30 *Yogi Bear*: *Cartoon*.

4.35 *Jackanory*: *Cyd Hayman* continues *Oriental Folk Tales* with a

story called the *Magic Millstones*. 4.45 *Isla and the Farm on the Hill*: The girl from the *Generation Game*, *Isla St Clair*, finds out what she'd like to live and work on. *Four programmes*: she learns to plough. She's a truer, you have to admit. 5.05 *John Craven's Newround*. 5.15 *Postbox*: Part II of 16 (see *Personal Choice*).

5.55 *Nationwide*: *Glyn* *Worship* continues his *Home Office* series of *Crime and Justice*.

6.50 *Rabbit*: *A Ripe Old Age*. *Pyfe* *Rebriston*, veteran television reporter, talks to *Lord Hallisham*, veteran lawmaker, politician, writer, and *Skipton*.

7.30 *The Rockford Files*: *The Hawaiian Headache*. Television's most engrossing American PI (with the possible exception of *Harry O*) dips rather more than his toe into *Rockford* territory, and finds out when he wins a holiday in Hawaii.

8.10 *Decision: A Future for Joice*: Last in the series about major changes in people's lives features a 16-year-old girl who wants to be a teacher initially and later to live with foster parents.

9.00 *News* with *Richard Baker*.

9.25 *Flesh and Blood: Fish and Chips Twice*: Fish and Chips Twice. The "trouble at 'r

mill" family saga continues with the appealing *Max and Sam* visiting an unhappy *Max Guy* at school. *Mabel* and *Henry* are the only ones I give a damn for. 10.00 *News* with *John Craven*.

10.30 *Today*.

7.00, 8.00 *News*.

7.30, 8.30 *Headlines*.

8.35 *Yesterday in Parliament*.

9.00 *News*.

9.05 *Tuesday Call*.

7.00 *News*.

10.05 *In Britain Now*.

10.30 *Daily Service*.

11.00 *More Civilized People* (2).

11.30 *News*.

11.45 *Play: Hot Stuff*.

11.35 *Local Edition*.

12.00 *News*.

12.30 *News* and *Yours*.

12.50 *Down Your Way*.

1.00 *The World at One*.

1.30 *The Archers*.

2.02 *Woman's Hour*.

3.00 *News*.

3.03 *Listen With Mother*.

3.15 *Sons and Lovers* (4).

4.00 *Postbox*.

4.45 *Story: The Melon-seed Girl*.

5.00 *PM News*.

5.25 *Weather*.

6.00 *News*.

6.30 *Just a Minute*.

7.00 *News*.

7.30 *The Archers*.

7.30 *The Restless Years* (4).

8.00 *In Touch*.

8.20 *Come to the Opera*.

8.30 *From Our Correspondent*.

9.30 *Kaleidoscope*.

10.00 *The World Tonight*.

10.30 *The Hornblower Story*.

11.15 *Festivals*.

11.30 *Today in Parliament*.

12.00 *News*.

12.15-12.33 *Weather*.

1.00 *CBSO*, pr 2: *Szumanowski*.

2.00 *PM News*.

2.45 *Just a Minute*.

3.00 *News*.

3.15 *Postbox*.

4.00 *Postbox*.

4.45 *Just a Minute*.

5.00 *PM News*.

5.25 *Weather*.

6.00 *News*.

6.30 *Postbox*.

7.00 *News*.

7.30 *Postbox*.

8.00 *News*.

8.30 *Postbox*.

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10.00 *News*.

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"For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son, that
anyone that believes in him
should not perish, but have
eternal life." - St. John 3:16.

BIRTHS

BARRETT.—On February 5, 1980,
at St. Teresa's, Wimborne, Dorset,
B. and Linda (née Charnie) and
Fairfield General Hospital to
Susan and John a daughter
CHAMPION.—On February 8 at
Bath, John and Karen a daughter
CHAPMAN.—On February 8 at
Bath, to Susan (née Thorpe) and
John, daughter of Peter and
William Robert, brother for Ben
COCHRANE.—On February 7 at
St Thomas' Hospital, in Maggie
COLLINS.—On February 9 at the
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford,
FARR.—On February 10, 1980
at St. John's, London, John and
Carolyn (née Stark) and Anthony
HARDY.—On 10th February, at
Queens Hospital, Croydon, Maggie
MELVILLE.—On February 10 at
Queens Hospital, Croydon, and
Simon—2 daughters, 1 son, 1
daughter, 1 son, Peter (James),
Lindsey (John), and Paul (John),
and Sue and Peter, a boy
ACROSS

1 Dine chez Uriah (3, 5, 3).

9 VIP at the Savoy (3, 4).

10 She shows anger, one's lost
love (5).

11 Old age for a stock-getter
(6).

12 Seat of Mars (3, 5).

13 Breathing, ardency, man
with this disguised as duenna? (6).

14 PC Malaprop (3).

15 Legal sweeteners, these? (6).

19 For no goose needed to fear
(6).

21 They made balloonning catch
on (6).

23 What's the starter doing in
the next distance? (6).

26 Each single on the Sunset
Line (5).

27 Follow new Ascot fashions
(4-5).

28 Russian love birds? (7, 5).

DOWN

1 Crack-pata? Easily could be
(7).

2 Green glassly, crispy? (5).

3 Rare as a Shakespearean muis-
tress was not (9).

4 A go like this gives one
quite a turn (4).

5 It can get you down, too
(8).

6 Pats of hail around you sit
on the 5 (5).

BIRTHS

HAGHTON.—At Westminster Hospital
on February 7, 1980, to John and
Anthony, a daughter (Anita
PIERSON.—On February 9 at
Pamela (née Chambers) and
Edmund, a daughter for Richard
RIDDLE.—On February 8, in
Granby, Cayman, to Sibella and
John, a daughter (Philippa Jane).

ROBERTS.—On February 10, at
Cardiff, to Christopher and
Michael, a daughter (Georgina
Adriana).

BIRTHDAYS

ERICA.—On February 10, Birthday.
Received cards all well—Natalie.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. SHIRIMP with a
big smile, a little smile and a hug from
your loving Brown, E.S.

MARRIAGES

BROWN-THOMAS.—On Friday, 10th
February, at the Royal Chapel, Lambeth
Palace, London, Brown, son of Mrs.
Muriel Brown, and the Rev'd Mr.
John Thomas, son of Henry.

Price, of Spitalton, South Brent,
Devon, and Noland, daughter of
John and Barbara, a Carter, of
Hawaii, United States.

GOLDEN WEDDING

LAW.—On Friday, 10th February,
at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, to Mathew
and Linda, a daughter (Beverly
Linda) and son (Matthew).
GARDNER.—At St. George's, Bristol,
on Saturday, 11th February, to Peter
Gardner and Barbara, a daughter
(Carolyn) and son (Peter).
WILKINSON.—At St. Andrew's Cathedral,
Singapore, to Thomas, Crowe
Gardner, a son (Peter) and
daughter (Barbara).

DEATHS

HOGG.—On February 9, at
Westminster Hospital, to Alan
Hogg, son of the late Sir Alan and
Lady Hogg, and of the late Sir
Anthony Archer-Shee of Calgary,
Alberta.

SHAW.—On January 29th,
1980, at Buda, beloved wife of
Percival, 3rd Earl of Cardigan,
Barry-College, and of Turner
Shaw, a daughter (Barbara),
survived by son (John) and
daughter (Eileen) and Anselmo
Conrad.

BELLS

BOWSELL.—On Feb. 10, 1980
in Nassau, Bahamas, after a long
and painful illness, to John
son of the late Sir Martin and
Lady Bowsell, and of the late Sir
Anthony Archer-Shee of Calgary,
Alberta.

SHAW.—On January 29th,
1980, at Buda, beloved wife of
Percival, 3rd Earl of Cardigan,
Barry-College, and of Turner
Shaw, a daughter (Barbara),
survived by son (John) and
daughter (Eileen) and Anselmo
Conrad.

CREMATION

COOPER.—On 10th February,
at the Chapel in the Hospital
of St. George, to Alan Cooper,
aged 90, a son (John) and
daughter (Barbara), a daughter
(Suzanne) and a son (John).
WILLIAMS.—On February 10, 1980,
at the Chapel in the Hospital
of St. George, to Alan Williams,
aged 89, a son (John) and
daughter (Barbara), a daughter
(Suzanne) and a son (John).

DRINKING PROBLEM?

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at the Chapel in the Hospital
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aged 90, a son (John) and
daughter (Barbara), a daughter
(Suzanne) and a son (John).

REGRETS

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